

















SKETCHES  
OF  
INTELLECTUAL EDUCATION,  
AND  
HINTS ON DOMESTIC ECONOMY,  
WITH AN  
APPENDIX,  
Containing  
THE NURSERY REFORMER,  
AND  
A FRAGMENT.

BY MRS. GRANT, LATE OF DUTHIE.

SECOND EDITION.

VOL. 1.

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..... The attentive  
By this harmonious action on her flowers,  
Becomes herself harmonious.

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1814.



## DEDICATION

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TO THE MOST EXPERIENCED AND DUTEOUS  
MOTHERS.

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MOST HONOURED MATRONS!

WHETHER ye reside in palaces, in the mansions of untitled affluence, or in the more lowly abodes of mediocrity — to you these humble efforts, for the diminution of human woes, are most respectfully dedicated. Ye best can appreciate the importance of judicious care in the management of infancy; or supply to your relatives, friends, or dependants, the deficiencies of this slender performance.

## DEDICATION.

THE writer delights in a full assurance that she thus invokes the co-operation of Patronesses incalculable in their numbers, and powerful by their condition, talents, and virtues. May the amount, very speedily include all who are invested with the maternal character, is the fervent prayer of

A devoted Servant,

**BEATRICE GRANT.**

*Strathspey, Jan. 31, 1844.*

# PREFACE.

TO THE

## SECOND EDITION.

*In considering the emendations for a Second Edition of the slight work on Intellectual Education, the Writer has perceived, with very painful concern, that many omissions, redundancies, and transpositions, escaped her notice, when, under the most distressful and disqualifying impediments, she laboured to revise the proof sheets of her volumes; yet, though deeply sensible of their glaring imperfections as a literary production, the numerous testimonies to their usefulness as a book of reference on subjects hitherto left to traditional prejudice, allow no room to regret having hazarded the publication at a juncture the most unfavorable for individual fame or emolument. Perhaps few have given such early, unre-*



mitting, and long-continued attention to the management of infancy and youth, than the *Writer*; or have more minutely and practically studied the methods for permanently regulating their propensities, by superinducing voluntary self-denial, or exertion on their own part. After many satisfactory proofs of their efficacy, she communicated the fruits of her experience to the eminently benevolent and intelligent *Editor of the Bee*, more than twenty years ago. In his notes to correspondents, is still extant the very favorable opinion with which he honored the “communication of *E. T. Obscure*,” and, with such encouragement, the *Writer* never lost sight of collecting materials for a more detailed system of *Intellectual Education*; in the hope of demonstrating, that, without influencing the will, and enlightening the reason of children, we shall never succeed in consistently modelling their conduct. Actions apparently the same, if performed on dissimilar principles, will eventually constitute very opposite characters in mankind.

*Terror, selfishness, or vanity, have temporary power to stimulate or restrain—but uniform obedience, and genuine goodness, are to be established only through pure and generous motives.*

*The Writer having no expectation of recovery from severe indisposition, was anxious to save the labor of more than forty years from sinking with herself into oblivion—and on the bed of sickness, she attempted to incorporate her detached sheets with the “*Communion of E. T. Ob-  
scure*,”—but the confusion of mind attendant on sorrow and suffering, occasioned the insertion of several paragraphs out of their due connexion. However, amidst the mortifying consciousness of manifold defects, it is unspeakably consolatory, that all the maxims have been correctly stated—and if they are too trivial to assist—they will not mislead the Reader. The candid, and humane, will benignantly receive the apology*

of a mourner and an invalid; and all who have known affliction will be more disposed to allow some small share of humble merit for a well intended enterprise, than critically to scan the faults of a work conducted under circumstances of extreme calamity. Even now, a thousand agonizing recollections are associated in retracing the following pages. The tedious and complicated symptoms of incurable distemper—the anxious nights consumed in melancholy vigils—the dreary weeks that passed in exclusion from the light of day, no longer reportable to emaciated loveliness—the last sad separation—all press bitterly on the maternal heart—and every faculty is overwhelmed by irrepressible emotion. But if any melioration in the treatment of infancy and youth shall be procured—the Writer has not suffered nor exerted her debilitated capacity without a recompence.

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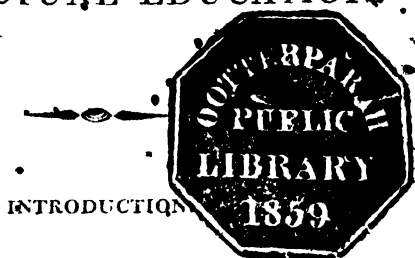








# INTELLECTUAL EDUCATION.



IF we were to inquire by what means the ravages of disease in the human frame may be most effectually obviated; and purity and elevation of mind conducted to the highest possible perfection, our first resource would be found in the interested and enlightened agency of parents, during the most impressible stages of life. Yet how many youthful pairs engage in the most arduous and important of all duties, without one ray of accurate knowledge to direct their proceedings! Their first-born is therefore committed to delegates whose self-confidence is chiefly

supported by ignorance; and if he escapes premature death, or constitutional maladies, he grows up with habits very pernicious to the future children of the family.

THE lamentable mortality among infants, that has transferred many noble inheritances to distant heirs; and the defects in moral and intellectual attainments, so afflictive to parents, leave no room for doubting that some great error exists in the general scheme of management. When the pains and infirmities, peculiar to the race of man, are contrasted with the thriving condition of irrational creatures, we shall find irresistible arguments in favour of maternal nurture and attention. All animals, however ferocious or insensate, bestow the fondest care, and encounter every hardship, for the sake of their progeny; and no mother, duly informed of the analogy which pervades all the works of the Creator, will expose her helpless babe to the hardships and dangers he may incur, by entirely confiding him to a substitute, who

would be deemed incompetent for any other trust where incorruptible integrity, and unremitting exertion, must be indispensable. It is indeed a subject of piteous regret, that the most illustrious descent does not always ensure for children the most valuable privilege that can be annexed to a high origin—a steadfast regard to the simplicity of nature in their external comforts, and a judicious regulation of their pristine habits—which may exempt them from the ills that pursue the weak and vicious through the interminable progress of existence. There are few persons who have reached maturity without hearing the ruined constitutions, and the faults of children imputed to the folly or wickedness of their nurses—yet precautions against those dire calamities are too often neglected. To what cause shall we ascribe this insensibility in very amiable parents? To a consciousness that, being quite unacquainted with the right treatment of infancy, their interference can be of no avail!—but the least of the miseries they may be instru-

mental in preventing, deserves the utmost labour they can bestow, to qualify themselves for inspecting all that relates to helpless innocents, who are unable to plead in their own behalf. We hope, by bringing forward some leading facts, to excite investigation in all whom those truths may concern; and in our era, which so justly boasts of luminous views respecting individual or social enjoyments, we would venture to predict, that in great error to explore the prime source of those managements, we shall learn very liberally to apply, peculiar mental intelligence and assiduity treated with the care, that all ranks may be functional creatures, we shall be able to produce arguments in favour of the same. Men are prepared for attention. All animals, for professions, and even or insensate, best of mechanic arts, by approach encounter every, ion and gradual experience—their progeny; human beings, in their most de- of the analogy, is the inherent office of those the Creator have brought them into a world of woe; to the duty as the duties implied are not known by higher intuition, they ought to be ascertained and

delineated with more precision and sedulity, than have been hitherto bestowed upon subjects of the deepest interest. We allow, that the sagacity and honest vigilance of a nurse may largely contribute to the personal welfare of her charge; but no considerate parent will wholly rely upon her judgment—and far less will implicitly trust to her qualifications for developing, exercising, and guiding, the perceptions and propensities of the opening mind. Parents who have widely taken upon themselves this department, have invariably seen ample occasion for prohibiting practices the attendants were unwilling to forbear; and to enforce the observance of rules to which they reluctantly paid obedience—but since the incidents and examples that convey first impressions to the feelings and reason, may influence the fate of children for ever—to save them from perversion is to rescue them—not only from the inflictions unsuccessfully employed for correcting habits that timely superintendence might have prevented, but also from all the evil

consequences of those *habits* at a more advanced age. We are too apt to forget that infants receive a salutary or prejudicial bias whenever we can discern in their manners any sign of memory or sympathetic imitation. Before they are twelve weeks old, they appear to anticipate future occurrences, by a recollection of the past; and a lively child at a much earlier period recognises his nurse, and evidently associates ideas, and makes distinctions. If a favorite shall be named, his eyes sparkle with delight—and he directs them—not to the window—the grate—nor any object besides the door, as if to intimate that the entrance of his friend must be there expected. If the articles that supply his wants or pleasures are spoken of, he indicates a reference to their use; speak of his hat, and his arms are extended to go out of doors; of his bed, and his little head is laid upon your bosom. He learns to obey, and copies whatever is often represented to him; and it is well, if, in the first use of imitative powers, his disposition escapes injury. His



maid thinks it amusing to teach him to scold, to menace, and to give blows; to fawn, to caress, and to deceive; yet with equal ease might she impart more beneficial lessons, and few would fail in this service, if duly taught to perform it. Though the child can articulate few words, he understands many; and his application of verbal acquisitions sufficiently demonstrates a capacity for mental illumination. Providing him with steady lights to direct his active perceptions, may insure the happiness of his future life, and they who have had an opportunity of comparing a child, whose mind has been regulated and whose best feelings have been excited in early infancy, with one who had been habituated to the example of base and unruly passions, can alone know the difference arising from different modes of treatment. Every analogy in nature points to early culture and restraint. If weeds are suffered to spring up, we look for no luxuriant growth of useful produce from the soil. The plant seedling assumes whatever form.

the hand of the gardener may direct; but in vain shall he endeavour to straighten or to bend the tree consolidated by succeeding years. In the lower creation, "informed with life," the same early facility is remarkable. The wild beast of the desert may be tamed, and habits foreign to his nature superinduced. The timid nestling grows familiar with man; sometimes mimics his language, and adds new modulation to his imitative song, but the old bird under any restriction languishes and dies. The groom and huntsman carefully guard against all bad customs in animals they undertake to train; and even the untutored Arab watches over the first movements of a camel, or a colt, he is preparing for service. If very early tuition is necessary to animals whose sensorium is bounded by invariable instincts, how much more to a rational agent, whose nature, modelled by habits, is endowed with capacities that produce increasing good, or accumulating mischiefs to himself and others; and whose highest virtue and happiness con-

sists in the government of his ardent, complicated, and mutable passions.

PARENTAL assiduity should direct not only the often mistaken means for preserving health, but the measures favourable to moral impressions; yet how shall the inexperienced mother proceed in conducting concerns to which she has been a stranger till called upon for their regulation? and dreadful are the evils which are to be imputed to her incapacity. The bills of mortality throughout the British empire evince, by the most authentic documents, that of the infants born into the world, one-third are doomed to perish within the first month, and scarcely one-half attain the age of puberty: whilst every newspaper gives instances of crimes and indiscretions that add pungency to natural calamities in these conditions. Those who have most seriously studied the human frame are convinced, that such a number of deaths and constitutional diseases, in the first stages of life, are chiefly occasioned by mismanage-

ment; and the humanity of several eminent physicians has furnished volumes to recommend a more rational mode of treatment: but prejudice against medical systems deters many mothers from consulting these books, though they would readily listen to the counsels of an aged matron. These considerations have induced us to offer the result of nearly forty years' experience; and perhaps our plain suggestions may relieve the perplexities of a youthful parent removed from all to whom she could apply for information. The penetrating good sense of the mother having detected some dangerous nostrums of the nurse, she suspects the whole of her conduct; yet, being destitute of theoretic or practical knowledge, she must submit to servile guidance. When a physician is called, she is in dread lest his prescriptions may be counteracted; but, conscious of ignorance, she dares not assume the management of her child. Emergencies may also occur when professional attendance cannot be immediately procured, though absolutely necessary, and

the wily nurse, or shrewd gossip, must be intrusted:

OUR simple and safe remedies may opportunely enable the anxious mother to relieve the sufferer without yielding to the hazardous experiment of quackery; and, even in a state of celibacy, a judicious female may snatch from an untimely grave the child of a sister or friend, or some poor dependent. Ladies of rank and fortune devote much time and money to charitable purposes; and would gladly bestow instruction, if well assured they might teach the most beneficial of all arts, the care of infancy, both in respect to health and morals. Nor would the deed of mercy be confined to the immediate objects. A young woman who has seen her little brothers and sisters tenderly cherished, and patiently taught to controul their passions, will follow her mother's method in the nursery of the affluent, in tending and restraining a being at that age, when the necessities of all ranks are nearly similar; and thus the best secu-

rity for the offspring of the wealthy will be formed in qualifying the poor to do justice to their own. But however well informed and meritorious a nurse may be, the natural tenderness and solicitude, and the superior intelligence of her employer, may suggest very valuable improvement in her methods, both in respect to the infant's health, and for moulding his disposition. We mean not to insinuate that ladies ought to perform menial services; but we would entreat and exhort them to minute inspection of their infants. If once induced to give uniform attention for a short time, they will be convinced it is indispensable. Many nurses, no doubt, are faithful, tender, and assiduous; but all mere mortals are liable to errors and negligences; and a check upon these may save children from the dreadful miseries of a distempered body and corrupted heart. In general we shall find, that healthful and amiable young persons owe much to parental vigilance; or, in the higher ranks, to a respectable Governess, as the guardian of infant years. In a

state of mediocrity, domestics who have had some education cannot be afforded; therefore, no engagement of business or pleasure can excuse a mother's dereliction of the cares of her nursery. "A limited fortune indeed demands the utmost attention to economy; but, be it remembered, that, whilst busied by an arrangement where loss or gain cannot materially affect your comforts, the health of your dearest pledge may be irreparably injured." Besides, one fit of sickness will cost more than you can save or gain in the time necessary to guard against pains or perils to your defenceless child; and it should ever be kept in remembrance, that he is utterly unable to intimate unkindness or neglect, but by the melancholy consequences. Superintendence during ablution, cloathing, feeding, or taking exercise, or going to rest, may deliver him from many sufferings; and if you have daughters, they should be carefully taught to observe your management and treatment in every particular. By degrees they will be qualified to supply your place,

and forced smiles, or hears of their transgressions and amiable qualities only through the medium of angry vehemence or interested flattery. Under such circumstances, how little must the parent know of the temper and habits of her children, especially if curbed or impelled by imperious harshness. She may see them every hour, and pry into all circumstances, but the fear of unwittingly incurring punishment has taught them to dissemble even harmless inclinations; and, in this way, disingenuous arts must become habitual before the passive innocents could clearly distinguish between candour and duplicity. Servants, too, believing they do well to keep peace in the house, very readily go hand in hand with the children in deceiving; and, in short, no one is so often duped and baffled as the mother who governs by terror. When debasing severity has commenced with the nurse, has been continued and enforced by the parents, and maintained through every stage of instruction, integrity



of mind can never be established, and voluntary goodness is unavoidably debarred.

HAVING considered the ordinary effects of negligence, and of that unreasonable anxiety which leads to acts of overstrained authority, let us now advert to the tendency of extreme indulgence. Unless bad passions are checked and counteracted in their first appearance, and the children taught both by mild reproof and by instruction, to distinguish cautiously between good and evil, there can be no precision, no stability in their principles nor conduct; and they will suffer much more at a future period through misbehaviour, than from the most rigid self-denials enforced by wise and affectionate parents, who doubtless will inflict no needless restraint. Far, very far be it from us to prohibit harmless enjoyments however diversified; and we detest the weak and cruel supposition, that, unless treated morosely, a young creature is in danger of being spoiled. Every failing must be re-

primanded—but with gentleness, and with such affecting appeals to the feelings and judgment of the offender, as may awaken an active desire for self-correction, by strenuous endeavours to cultivate the opposite virtue. We lay it down as an axiom, and shall often revert to it, that every thought, word, and deed, approximates to customary evil, or to habitual good in the mind: and since so much depends on habits, we must in no instance permit mistaken tenderness, or indolence, to sacrifice vast and permanent future benefits for present ease or gratification. On this account we should attentively correct the first propensity of mind, or movement of body, that could not be approved when the disposition and manners are formed: and, for the same reason, we would deprecate every indulgence that may lead to customary faults, and every degree of rigour which might introduce servility and cunning. Though a child cannot be controlled by reason until he has learnt to affix precise ideas

to the words we employ, and to feel the force of arguments, his heart will be sooner alive to virtuous impressions, and his faculties more speedily unfolded, by talking to him as a rational creature, than governing by arbitrary command; and they who are conversant with a proper mode of managing children, acquire unbounded influence over them, merely by adapting their language to the capacity of their little auditors. Infancy, though apparently helpless, is capable of precious improvements, by training and inuring the mind to religious and moral sentiments, which in that pliant season are soon acquired: whereas, much labour and sorrow must be endured to *unlearn* evil, if once indulged; whilst the time unavoidably consumed in that painful struggle might be employed to advantage in furthering the progress of education. We admit that many worthy persons have not enjoyed the blessing of judicious care in the first stage of life; but we shall find that, in this case, severe conflicts

have been afterwards undergone in effacing wrong impressions, and in forming a system of intellectual education for themselves. These instances, therefore, afford still stronger inducements to the affectionate parent to associate, in the most unequivocal manner, the ideas of rectitude and innocence with self-enjoyment, and of error and transgression with misery. The perceptions and opinions of an infant are almost entirely at our own disposal, and to preserve them from the mental anguish which ever precedes reformation, what exertion can be deemed too severe? We cannot shield them from the arrows of affliction, but we can secure them from the envenomed stings of guilt and self-reproach, by cultivating in ourselves that species of knowledge which may teach us to shun the baneful consequences of erroneous principles in forming the tender mind. The pious and upright fare better even in this world than they who give way to violent or insidious passions, and if we are very desir-

to save our children from mistakes inimical to secular interests, we must acquaint them with the precepts of moral wisdom, which infallibly lead to soundness and perspicacity in judgment, and will conduct them in safety through intricacies by which the unprincipled are involved in ruin. When every thought, word, and action, is sanctified by upright intention, the quicksands of vice and folly will be anxiously shunned; and if the child has learnt to speak the truth in simplicity; not only in stating facts, but in expressing feelings and opinions, those false estimates, and unreasonable expectations, that occasion imprudent proceedings, will seldom frustrate his plans in maturer age. If he has been taught to cherish a facility in receiving satisfaction, admitting always that an endeavour to please entitles his companions to complacency, he will extract the balm of contentment and cheerfulness from circumstances, that, to a fastidious temper, would produce only the corrosive of splenetic scorn. Can it be supposed that these numer-

ous and diversified instructions, thus slightly adverted to, can be afforded by the inexperienced mother without some aid from a digested and systematic scale of duties.

## SIMPLE REMEDIES FOR SLIGHT AILMENTS.

WE enter on this part of our undertaking, formally protesting we are unable to suggest any remedy that may safely supersede medical advice in severe or dubious cases. The diseases of infancy are extremely acute and rapid in their progress, and they are often attended with characteristics which can be distinguished only by an experienced practitioner. Assistance should therefore be obtained on the slightest appearance of danger, and we merely encroach on the physician's province, to enable parents to adhere more consistently to his prescriptions, or to act in urgent circumstances where he cannot immediately attend. Some knowledge of the healing art is the surest defence against the impositions of quackery, and the health of an infant may be preserved or restored by the

timely use of very simple means, nor can the mal-practices of nurses be detected by a parent who is quite ignorant of these particulars.

THE inexperienced mother is generally mightily pleased with celerity in the nurse's mode of clothing the infant; but these rapid movements actually endanger the child's life, and the utmost gentleness and deliberation must be enjoined. Remaining on the nurse's knee is an uncomfortable posture. Her motions and conversation disturb him, and he is exposed to extremes of cold and heat, or to too much light. During the first week an infant should be always in bed, except when taken up to supply his wants, which must be punctually attended to the moment he awakes; and by this easy expedient, habits of cleanliness may be very early established. It is of the utmost consequence that mothers should satisfy themselves, repeatedly every day, that the child's clothes



are all clean and comfortable, and do not in any respect confine his tender frame.

PINS are so apt to lacerate the skin, and occasion dangerous fits of crying, that their place should be supplied by strings. But without great attention from the mother, runners are unsafe, as nurses are apt to draw them too close, and the ligatures, by compressing one part, occasion unnatural enlargement in another, and deformity must be the consequence. Let it be observed, that, though a child requires warmth, his clothing must not be so heavy as to oppress or overheat him; and the same rule must direct the nurse when she puts him to bed; the room in which he remains should be large and airy, but moderately warm. All sudden transitions are hazardous, and even in passing from one apartment to another, a chilling blast may give rise to alarming complaints.

EXERCISE must be given by slow grada-

tions. After the first week, the child may be kept for a short time on the knee, and then carried about a little in the nurse's arms, almost imperceptibly increasing this gentle motion. Shaking and dancing him up and down on the knee, is apt to strain the back, sicken the stomach, and to irritate or to terrify a young infant. Exercise is absolutely necessary to his health, and it ought to be gradually augmented during the first month. Afterwards, he should very seldom remain on the nurse's knee—a posture very unfavourable to his well-being and growth. He must be alternately carried about in her arms, or laid upon a cushion, where his limbs can have full play. In summer, he must be placed directly opposite to the light, and, if the rays are powerful, a slight shade should intervene. In winter his feet should be turned to the fire. The nurse must invariably watch over him, speaking and singing for his amusement, and taking him up before he is chilled or uneasy. She should be directed to change him by turns to both

arms. Many children are left-handed, or become deformed, by reclining chiefly on one side.

If the child's entrance to the world took place during a cold season, he must not be carried out of doors till a succession of mild weather has softened the atmosphere. He should be wrapt up, and frequently taken all over the house, the windows of spare rooms being previously thrown open. He may then for a short time encounter the external air at noon day, and his walk may be lengthened a little every day. In hot weather, the morning and afternoon are the best for these rambles; but evening damps are at all seasons pernicious. The practice of laying a child on the grass has caused many incurable distempers, and standing with him at open windows and doors ought to be strictly prohibited.

When little ones can run about, their mother will do well to observe they are not

often confined to their seats, that the nurses may be spared annoyance from boisterous mirth. They ought to be allowed to run and play as much as they like. These varied motions are necessary to give the humours due impulsion; for their course and distribution must be unequal unless the sinews are in all parts alternately stretched and contracted. Unthinking people admire the regulations of a nurse or governess who compel their charge to be very quiet in the house, and when they walk out to go along like files of soldiers. In a public promenade this is decorous, but a more retired situation is better for children, where they may frisk and frolic like the bounding fawn.

CIRCUMSTANCES may deprive a mother of the sweet satisfaction which every well constituted mind experiences in discharging the actual duties of a nurse, but no consideration should prevent her from giving the most minute attention to the management of her infant; and we warn her that it is during the

night he will probably suffer most from indifference or unkindness. The nursery should therefore communicate with the mother's bed chamber; and, besides seeing her little one put to bed, she should visit him just before she retires to her room. If he is undressed early, he will slumber after that fatigue, and will often be restless during the night. He must be used to regular hours in every particular, and if allowed a short sleep in the forenoon, and after dinner, he may be kept awake during the evening; when all the family are going to bed, is the proper time to commence preparations on his account, and universal stillness will promote his repose; he should be laid on the right side more frequently than on the left. A narrow bed is at all times dangerous and uncomfortable for a young infant.

AFTER the age of four, the time allotted for sleep should be gradually abridged, but the child must be roused in a kind and

gentle manner. Roughness might injure his health and temper.

EVERY part of a child's dress, whether worn by day or by night, although used only once, should be consigned to the laundress; as, without this strict attention to cleanliness, excoriation and eruptions can hardly be avoided. When the child is teething, the bibs must be changed whenever they become in the least damp, to prevent the saliva from fretting his delicate bosom:

To bathe an infant, both morning and evening, while the stomach is empty, is indispensably requisite to promote his health and comfort. During the first month, the water should be nearly milk-warm, but if there is no eruption, cough, or feverish disorder, the temperature may be gradually reduced. After gently and carefully drying every part, the whole body and limbs should be rubbed with the warm hand, taking great care not to press too much on the stomach

and bowels; and on these parts the friction must be applied in a circular direction. If the cold bath occasions violent crying, the antipathy must not be combated with much perseverance, as it may proceed from sensations we cannot discover till too late to prevent their pernicious effects. The head of an infant is liable to irreparable injury by using a comb. A soft brush very lightly employed is more safe; and the hair should only be long enough to cover the skin.

..

In feeding infants, there are some attentions very important; yet many nurses of much experience have not adverted to them. A child should be almost in an erect posture when taking food. He should be fed with a small spoon scarcely half filled, and allowed to swallow one little portion before another is presented to him. Let it be remembered, that the utmost care and gentleness are necessary to guard against hurting his gums; and they cannot endure the same degree of heat as those of a grown person. After

sucking or feeding, he must remain in a quiescent state for at least a quarter of an hour. Nurses are anxious to get the child to take a very abundant supper, but cramming his stomach prevents sleep as certainly as inanition. Never urge a child to receive one spoonful of what he has rejected. Let him have as much as he will take willingly; but to entice or press exceeds the cravings of his appetite, and is avoided. It will derange some operation of the bowels, and must be avoided. In the least case of fretting he

Physicians recommend the mother's first milk as the best medicine, and assuredly the ever-blessed Creator has appointed this aliment as the most suitable to every young animal. Though the milk has not flowed, the child's efforts will seldom fail in drawing it to the lactescent vessels, and it is better, if the patient be too weak to bestow it, to delay giving any nourishment for an hour or two: but after that time has elapsed, if the babe cannot have breast milk, its properties must be imitated as nearly as possible, by mixing some



soft boiled water with the milk of an ass, a goat, or a cow. One-fourth part of water must be added to ass's milk, which is always to be preferred. One third part to goat's milk, which is next in quality, and one-half part to the milk of a cow, that had previously calved about ten days, and has been fed on sweet grass or hay. Whatever milk may be used, it should be obtained newly drawn, and very little mixed at once. Two or three tea-spoonfuls, a little warmed, may be given every time the child awakes; and by attending to the former direction, to make the spoon scarcely half full, the nurse may easily avoid wetting his clothes, by which carelessness the chin and bosom are often excoriated. As soon as he can be allowed to suck, all other food should be discontinued; and if there be an abundance of milk, it is the best and only aliment for the first two or three months. If no discharge of the meconium takes place before the child is four hours old, a piece of manna, the size

of a hazle nut, should be dissolved in four tea spoonfuls of soft boiled water, and given by degrees a little warm at short intervals, till a free operation is promoted.

WE have heard a sagacious physician lament that many heirs of affluence die in the first months of infancy, or are weakly through life, through want of sufficient nourishment from the nurse. Mothers may avert this dreadful fate, by giving every two hours, with their own hand, some of the aliments here recommended, in conformity to the child's age and strength. If there is the least doubt of a full supply of milk, and a better nurse cannot be procured, the child should have milk and water, mixed as above, frequently offered to him. If he is inclined to take that, or any other nourishment presented to him, no entreaty will be necessary, and it never ought to be used. When milk cannot be had, a tea-spoonful of the yolk of a fresh egg, mixed with four tea-spoonfuls of hot

water, is a good substitute. Soup of veal is prepared as follows, and it may be given as a change of food:—

To two English pints of boiling water, allow six ounces of the leanest part of well fed veal, lamb, kid, or chicken, sliced thin, and boil them together till the liquor is half consumed, strain it, and, when cold, take off the scum very carefully. Pour the soup from the sediment, and warm a little of it when wanted. When children are troubled with flatulency, a tea-spoonful of carraway seeds boiled in this soup, or in any other food that may be strained off, will be found serviceable. Boys are sometimes afflicted with gravelish pains, which are much relieved by putting in a few sprigs of parsley with the meat intended for soup.

A CHILD'S food should be adapted to the state of his bowels, and as general rules are not a sufficient direction for the *inexperienced mother*, we shall enumerate some

simple messes that may be procured in all situations.

WHEN aliment of an opening nature is wanted, the soup should be prepared from the heart and lights of a young animal; all the fat must be carefully pickèd off, and the soup should be clarified as already directed. After clarifying, it may be boiled again with pot barley, to a proper consistençy, for a child three or four months old.

WHEN milk seems to be of a quality too astringent, we have substituted, a part or the whole yolk of a new laid egg in some of the child's messes, according to his age and vigour. It may be used in the following manner:—

TAKE one ounce of pearl barley, and half an ounce of raisins stoned, cleaned, and cut small. Boil the whole in water, till very tender, but not thick. Take the vessel off the fire, and just as the decoction ceases to

boil, mix with it the yolk of a new laid egg, well beaten.

PANADO may be mixed in the same manner.

Good apples or pears boiled in the skin, to preserve the juice and the pulp, mixed with a little sugar and the yolk of an egg. For drink, take whey and liquorice root water.

ONE of the best restringents for weak bowels is arrow root, when it can be procured fresh and genuine. It ought to be prepared with soft water, and eaten with ass's milk. Oats shelled and dried, of a light brown colour, and boiled in water till the seeds are tender, and of a thick consistency, and eaten with ass's milk, also counteract a weakness of the bowels.

RICE or millet boiled in water, and mixed in the same manner, is an agreeable change.

PANADO of the finest wheaten bread that has been four or five days old, and taken with ass's milk, is equally proper.

Cow's milk may be prepared so as to have some of the best properties of ass's milk; for that purpose, mix two ounces of finely powdered double refined sugar with an English pint of milk, new from the cow, and stir it over the fire till it boils. When cold, take off all the cream, which is good for culinary purposes. The thin milk may be taken with arrow root, jelly of calf's feet, or hartshorn; or with rice, or any other food of an astringent nature. It may be mixed with toast and water for common drink, or boiled again with dried flour to the thickness of gruel, or hasty pudding. The flour may be dried in any common camp oven, which has been well scoured, and repeatedly scalded with boiling water. When thoroughly dried, let it be made so hot that the bottom can be touched by the hand without shrinking. Sift into it the finest flour, about a quarter of

an, incli deep; make the cover pretty hot, and keep up the same degree of moderate heat ten or twelve minutes. If the flour has not crumbled into grey powder, continue drying it till it assumes that appearance and form.

ANOTHER very powerful and safe astringent may be prepared from singed sheep's feet. Cut the flesh of the leg in thin slices, but take no part of the sole, as it is intermixed with particles of fat. To the lean part of four feet, well singed and cleaned, add two English pints of water. When boiled half away, set it to cool, and skim and clarify it as already directed. A child four months old may have a tea-spoonful of this soup every quarter of an hour, giving him half a grain of magnesia every morning and evening till the disorder abates; and observe that the quantity of the absorbent powder, and of the soup, ought to be increased in

proportion to the age and strength of the infant.

#### CHOICE OF A NURSE.

ALL hereditary disorders, and especially those of a pulmonary nature, may be communicated to the nursling. If the nurse has had several children, the flow of milk will be more equal, and her knowledge of duty more complete. Her own child is the best specimen of her qualifications, and if the last is not more than five or six weeks old, it is a great advantage. Good teeth, a florid complexion, cheerfulness, personal neatness, and blameless moral character, are essentials in a nurse. Good milk is of a blueish colour, and rather sweet.

As a safeguard against variolous infection, vaccine inoculation is recommended before the child is six weeks old. It ought to be repeated within the fourth year, and in a few



months thereafter inoculation for the small pox would remove all uncertainty.

WEANING.—If a child is declining much, without any evident cause, he will probably improve when weaned, and in such a case, it should not be delayed: but when circumstances allow it, this privation should be deferred till good weather and long days admit of having the little mourner out of doors. The nurse should not go far from the house, as her charge must have drink every quarter of an hour. Gruel of barley, rice, shelled oats, or oat-meal, new milk whey, milk and water, or any simple beverage he formerly preferred, should be used for this purpose. He must also have regular meals, to which it is presumed he has been accustomed, as a preparative to weaning. Any time after the sixth month he may be deprived of the breast, unless teething, or any acute disorder forbids it. If kept out of doors and amused during the day, with the addition of as much exercise as he can bear, he will not be very

troublesome at night. When he awakes, some nourishing drink should be given, but no food. The desire of food during the night time, is a habit unfavourable to cleanliness and rest, and an early breakfast and late supper will soon remove every wish for it: all superfluities, wine, or spirits, are improper.

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#### REMEDIES FOR SLIGHT AILMENTS.

GRIPES are generally occasioned by retention of the meconium, cold, or improper food. Rubbing the body in a circular direction with the warm hand will relieve a slight attack; but if it is very violent, and attended with signs of loathing, or thrush on the tongue, dissolve one grain of emetic tartar in two table-spoonfuls of warm water, shake the phial, and give half a tea-spoonful every five minutes till it acts as a gentle vomit. Or if there are no signs of loathing or fever, mix eighteen grains of Turkey rhubarb, with eighteen grains of magnesia; divide it into

twelve doses, and give one every evening and morning; these powders will generally cure a slight attack, without the necessity of giving an emetic.

**THE THRUSH.**—After the second day, an infant's mouth should be often examined, as the curd-like ulcers are soon cured if attended to on their first appearance. A grain of magnesia given in the morning and evening will remove the complaint in its earliest stage. If in two days, however, this remedy does not produce amendment, infuse half a handful of red rose leaves in a tea-cupful of boiling water, strain it off, and add a little fine honey. Cut your nail close on the first finger of the right hand, cover your finger with a piece of fine linen rag, dip it in the gargle, and gently touch the mouth and tongue twice every day, continuing to give magnesia till all the white ulcers have disappeared.

**JAUNDICE.**—This disease may be known

from the Gum by the nails and eyes being tinged with yellow. Mix two grains of calomel, with four grains of rhubarb, divide it into four doses, and give one every evening, keeping the infant from cold air. If the discolouration of the skin still continues, mix four grains of ipecacuanha with two table-spoonfuls of water, and give half a tea-spoonful every five minutes, till it operates as an emetic; administer this early in the evening, and at bed-time immerse the child up to the neck in warm water for five minutes. Wrap him up warmly, and lay him for sleep. Jaundice is one of the numerous diseases occasioned by giving bread, rich milk, wine, spiceries, or any solid or strong food to infants before the second month has elapsed.

CONVULSIONS—are so frequently the consequence of tight cloathing, that the first object ought to be the inspection of the infant's dress. If the teeth be shut, take ten drops of the spirit of hartshorn, and mix them with half a table-spoonful of water—moisten a

piece of linen rag with it, and apply it to the pit of the stomach. When it can be taken into the mouth, add three drops of harts-horn to a tea-spoonful of water.—give one half—and when it is swallowed, give the other. When the fit is over, the wet cloth may be taken from the body. If it appears that the stomach is overloaded, give a grain of emetic tartar, as already mentioned, but if the child be of a full habit, and the countenance flushed with indications of fever, it is requisite to apply a leech to each foot, and as soon as they have done; the feet and legs must be immersed in warm water. If a laxative is required, three tea-spoonfuls of castor oil, with an equal quantity of warm water; and half a tea-spoonful of manna must be administered by degrees, till it operates freely. If an astringent be necessary, half a grain of magnesia may be given every two hours till the violence of the bowel disorder is abated.

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**ERUPTIONS.**—Children who are kept thoroughly clean, and guarded from infections,

are seldom troubled with this offensive and distressing complaint. They ought to be confined to one cleanly domestic; and in situations where there is reason to fear contagion, no other person should be allowed to handle the child. Outward applications are dangerous. Cleanliness, the warm bath, and keeping the body gently open with magnesia, are the only remedies in ordinary cases: but where there are many pustules, or boils, on the skin, washing with warm water will not suffice. Immersion for half an hour will then be necessary; but a very young infant cannot undergo such treatment in continuation. In about ten minutes, the water, which has been only milk-warm, will become too cold, and the child will grow impatient. He must then be taken out, wrapped in a soft linen cloth, and by giving him the never-failing cordial, he will probably sleep upon the breast. Have water ready to repeat the immersion as soon as he awakes, and when he tires, take him out as before. This being done every morning and night, will take off the inflammation,

appease the itching, and effect a cure. The parts that have lost the skin must be dressed with a little Turner's cerate, mixed with salad oil, to prevent the clothes from sticking to the sores. These are operations to which the mother must constantly attend.

ERUPTIONS on the body often terminate in troublesome sores on the head, which must be washed twice in the day with equal parts of hot water and brandy. Let the sores be dressed with Turner's cerate, spread thin on a linen rag. The body, at the same time, must be kept open with magnesia.

ON the least appearance of glazing or redness, foment the irritated skin with warm water, to which a seventh part of brandy has been added, and, when gently dried, sprinkle some finely powdered white lead on it.

WIND in the stomach is generally removed by friction before the fire, but if it induces

great pain, or violent hiccup, three drops of the spirit of hartshorn in a tea-spoonful of water, given in two different divisions, will dispel the flätulency.

OBSERVE that in all the dozes, we mention the least quantity for a young infant, but more may be added in proportion to age, or strength of constitution.

SORE eyes are often the effect of cold, or being exposed to wind, or to a strong light. To cure inflamed eyes or eye-lids, they must be fomented with hot water and milk. Take two pieces of old linen, large enough when twice doubled, to cover both eyes. Dip it in the hot liquid, press the moisture well from it, and if your own cheek can bear the heat easily, lay it over the child's eye-lids. Remove it when it begins to cool, and apply the other rag. Keep the milk and water hot, and continue the fomentation ten minutes, thrice in the day. Weakness of the eyes, without inflammation, may be remedied by



cold ablution, with one part of brandy, or vinegar, added to six parts of water, and applied with two pieces of linen as above, with this difference, however, that the warm application must be changed when it begins to cool, and the frigid remedy must be shifted when the cold is diminished.

SQUINTING—is often the consequence of oblique lights, and whether in bed or in the nurse's arms, a child should be so placed that the luminous rays may come with equal influence on both eyes. This habit is frequently caught from the nurse, and it is a defect which ought to be an insuperable objection to her admission in the nursery.

TEETHING—is seldom severe upon well-managed infants. Providence has granted to mothers the invaluable privilege of preventing or mitigating sufferings incident to their offspring; and on a review of the numerous attentions that are requisite, it must be apparent that cares so complicated, how-

ever easily afforded, demand the interested and steady superintendence of a parent. The most sensible, affectionate, and anxious nurse, through ignorance, defect of memory, or misapprehension, may commit mistakes irreparable by all the resources of medical ability. The Physician can only prescribe; he has neither time nor opportunity to enforce measures against mismanagement. Extreme distrust of their own judgment, and too great a reliance on the confident pretensions of a nurse, are the fatal errors of *inexperienced mothers*, but their inspection may do good, and can do no harm. It will at least improve their own knowledge. If with the usual symptoms of teething there are feverish heats, starting, drowsiness, or spasms, four drops of sweet spirit of nitre, and two of hartshorn, must be given every two hours, till the doze has been thrice repeated. The drops may be given in liquorice-root water, or in any other harmless liquid. The feet and legs must be bathed in warm water, and the gums gently rubbed with a little fine

honey; and if the face be much flushed, leeching the feet will be necessary. If the stomach seems to be disordered, a gentle emetic may be given; an excessive discharge, however, from the bowels, must be counteracted by giving half a grain of magnesia every hour, and if the body be in a costive state, castor-oil and manna must be administered. We have already given directions for the manner in which these remedies are to be used.

WHEN children are indisposed, losing their teeth, and getting the new set, the same mode of treatment must be adopted.

RICKETS—seldom appear till after the seventh month. Enlargement of the head, the joints, and belly, are soon followed by loss of flesh and unnatural gravity of aspect; gentle emetics, and keeping the body a little open by small doses of rhubarb, are the first means of cure. Friction applied all over the body, three or four times daily, is also a

remedy not to be neglected, and the spine should, at the same time, be anointed with spirit of wine, strongly impregnated with camphor. 'If the child be too young to eat meat, it must be cut in slices, to be held in his hand, that he may constantly suck the juices.

CHICKEN, pigeon, partridge, veal, lamb, kid, or rabbit, broiled on an iron plate, without butter, will afford nutriment of easy digestion.

HE may also have hartshorn or calves' feet jelly, arrow-root, rice, millet, sago, salop, light puddings, or a fresh egg. He may have two or three table-spoonfuls of wine mixed with his diet in the course of each day, when free from fever.

CROUP.—This violent and rapid disease begins with pains in the throat under the skin, attended with hoarseness and a croaking noise. The application of leeches on

the part affected should be succeeded by an emetic, whenever the leeches quit their hold; and if these means do not afford considerable relief, a blister must be laid over the orifices as soon as they cease to bleed. If the discharge from the blister fails in abating the symptoms, there is reason to conclude that the croup is spasmodic, and assafoetida must be used. A piece, about the size of a nutmeg, dissolved in a tea-cupful of peppermint water may be given in the proportion of half a table-spoonful every hour, if the stomach can retain it. If you have no solid assafoetida, six or eight drops of the tincture may be given at like intervals. In early infancy, a cough, wheezing, and difficult breathing, are often contracted by sudden transitions from heat to cold; emetics and laxatives, as prescribed for disorders of the stomach and bowels, will palliate the disease, but in cases where fever is indicated, a plaster of Burgundy pitch placed between the shoulders, or a leech applied to the chest, will be necessary. To relieve the itching caused by

the plaster, it must be taken off twice in the week, the part bathed with warm water and milk, and dried gently. After wiping the plaster and heating it a little, let it be replaced.

**WORMS.**—Every complaint not well understood by pretenders to medical skill, is imputed to worms, and much injury has arisen by giving cathartics and bitters, in consequence of an erroneous impression. When there is reason to believe the disease really exists, give half a tea-spoonful of the flour of sulphur in the evening, and at night, three tea-spoonfuls of castor oil, twice in the week. This will answer the purpose of more pompous remedies.

#### PRESENCE OF MIND, AND RESOURCES IN CASUALTIES.

**P**RESENCE of mind, or self-possession, ought to be cultivated from early youth, by perse-

vering, endeavours to teach our children to govern their feelings, and with composure to make exertions in cases of sudden alarm. This is so important, that danger may be averted, or distress alleviated, by a mother's fortitude and prompt resources; but it is needless to expatiate on self-evident advantages. Whatever may be the nature of the casualty, the patient should be instantaneously undressed, but with great caution and tenderness. He will, however, bear these movements better than after the part has begun to swell and inflame. Even the extent of the injury, perhaps, cannot be fully ascertained till all the cloathing has been removed. Whilst this is going forward, the bed on which the sufferer is to remain, should be made up with clean linens, and in the most convenient manner. A distinct messenger must also be despatched for the doctor, if he lives near; but if at some distance, all the information ought to be given accurately on paper, and in the mean time, some relief for the patient must be devised.

WHEN a fracture appears to have happened, our first care should be to replace the bones. If the skin has been lacerated, caddis, or old linen scraped and dipped in sallad oil, must be applied. Spread some white ointment on stiff linen, or stout white paper, which must be laid over the wound, and fixed with a broad but not tight bandage. To retard the swelling, cloths wrung out of warm milk and water must be applied, changing them as they cool, until we can prepare fomentations of chamomile flowers, or ground malt; which must be used between two folds of flannel. These applications will allay the pain, and prevent a high degree of inflammation, till surgical assistance can be obtained.

IF the dislocation, can be reduced without much difficulty, it is adviseable to endeavour to return the bone to its proper situation, but as an awkward operator may augment the injury, he ought to desist, if he does not succeed in a short time; and in that unfor-



unate case, all that can be done is to use omentations, as already directed for, a fractured limb. These warm softening applications will give ease, and retard the swelling. If the joint has been reduced, we have only to place the limb in an easy posture, and to apply a cloth dipped in Goulard, or vinegar and water, but all attempts of an ignorant attendant to bandage the parts are dangerous.

A **SPRAIN**—only requires to lay the sufferer in bed as comfortable as circumstances may admit, and every quarter of an hour to rub the part with equal proportions of vinegar and water, applying also cloths wrung out of that mixture: friction helps to contract the elongated sinews.

**BURNING AND SCALDING**—are accidents so common, and attended with such extreme suffering, that we are happy to take this opportunity to diffuse the knowledge of a simple and ever ready means of relief. This is

the only casualty in which it would be improper to bestow a moment of time to undress the patient. The clothes must be cooled by throwing upon them a copious stream of any simple cold liquid. Water is most effectual, but if milk or whey can be more immediately obtained in large quantities, we must drench with the cooling liquors every part that has been affected with the hot water. Vinegar, wine, spirits, or beer, may be used if there be no excoriation, but the least injury to the skin would make these pungent liquors dangerous. As soon as water can be procured, it must be employed profusely. If the part can be completely immersed, the effect will be more speedy, and the degree of cold may be continued by frequently adding water fresh from the spring. At the end of one hour we may try if the pain be quite removed, but on the least return of uneasiness, recourse must be had to the cold water. If the injured part cannot be placed in a vessel containing this cooling fluid, clothes wrung out of it must be

used. A single fold of linen dipped in water must first be applied, but not removed, as it is intended to exclude the air; a large wet cloth, however, must be laid over the single fold, and changed as often as it becomes in the least degree warm.

It consists with our knowledge, that two children, dreadfully burned by boiling water, were cured by the application of the cold bath—in the one instance, by water, and in the other, by whey. These facts are so important, that they cannot be too widely diffused, and the value of the discovery cannot be too strongly impressed on public attention. We, therefore, deem ourselves fortunate in being able to say, that in every case where the remedy has been applied, it has proved effectual, and is now generally resorted to by medical practitioners, and the more intelligent members of the community.

SEVERAL remarkable proofs of the benefits attending the use of hot water and milk, as

a fomentation, have occurred in the course of our own experience. We have known a suppuration in the breast, which threatened to fall upon the lungs, brought to discharge, by applying cloths wrung out of hot water and milk, keeping up an equal heat, and persevering for some hours.

IN blows and in wounds which had enflamed, and in large abscesses, we have found immersion in hot water and milk to procure a discharge and speedy cure; but we must continue this remedy for some hours, and use the liquid as warm as the patient can bear without uneasiness. As few can have a surgeon to dress their sores so often as requisite, it may be of some advantage to an *inexperienced mother* to know how she may give them the necessary attention. In some parts, such as the points of the fingers, the skin is so thick as not to give way, and the offending matter, having no vent, augments the inflammation. Few have courage to attempt the use of the lancet, but a common

fine darning needle will answer the purpose. Keeping as near the surface as possible, run the needle across the part in which the matter fluctuates. Cut out the needle with a pair of sharp scizzars, and again soak the sore for five minutes, dry it, and apply basilicon ointment, spread thin on a linen rag. The sore must be soaked in hot water and milk, morning and evening, and dressed in the same manner, carefully cutting off all loose skin, as it prevents healing if allowed to remain.

If there be any appearance of fungus, or proud flesh, (as it is called), a light sprinkling of allum which has been burnt, or rather boiled on an iron plate, or touching the tumid part with blue vitriol, may be necessary. If the sore still does not heal kindly, we must use camphorated spirit of wine; after washing and gently drying the orifice, a linen rag in three or four folds may be dipped in camphorated spirit of wine, and laid over the sore for ten minutes, then dress

it as usual with basilicon ointment. Chilblains might be generally checked by applying to the part, whenever it begins to be affected, common flour of mustard moistened with strong spirits. If chilblains break and suppurate, they must be treated in every respect as we have directed for a common sore, except that instead of basilicon, white lead ointment must be used, and the camphorated spirits of wine not only employed as a wash, but flannel soaked with them must be laid over the dressing.

WHEN a sore seems to be quite clean and disposed to heal, the discharge becomes thick, and Turner's cerate, or white lead ointment, is better than basilicon to cicatrize the part.

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#### PREVENTION OF DISEASES.

A QUIET apartment, moderate warmth, and diluting drinks, would often check the progress of fatal diseases. If resorted to in

time, these remedies might remove dangerous colds and fevers, and mothers should acquaint themselves with the state of a healthy pulse, that, when the blood has an impulsion too violent, they may employ simple means to abate the stricture of the vessels. We by no means recommend confining a child to bed unless pain, loathing, or extreme lassitude disposes him to a recumbent posture. If he be compelled to seek his pillow, his mind will be ruffled, and he may catch more cold or exasperate the fever by restlessness. A very sagacious and successful practitioner has declared the whole healing art to consist in discerning, and co-operating with, the efforts of nature. He preferred confining his patients to their chambers, as, in case the disease might prove lingering, prematurely betaking themselves to bed, would certainly occasion a cruel aggravation of suffering. The parts on which the body must rest cannot be preserved from injury during long confinement, therefore this considerate and

humane physician delayed that measure by every palliative remedy.

A RETIRED and warm apartment, and the soothing attendance of a kind parent or friend, with permission to recline when he wishes for it, will often prevent the necessity of going to bed, which, however, should not be objected to, if it be the child's desire. His own sensations ought to be our rule, but whether he may sit up, recline occasionally, or undress and go to bed, he ought to be kept quiet, and allowed, or rather advised, to drink plentifully of any simple warm liquid, as whey, milk and water, tamarind or apple tea, currant jelly dissolved in water, lemonade, or gruel of shelled oats, barley, or rice, in which liquorice root has been boiled.

WHEN a patient must be confined to bed, the utmost attention should be bestowed to save the skin from irritation. The linens must be always smoothed, and the crumbs of his food very carefully taken away. These



nicians, and frequently changing his posture, with the help of scrupulous cleanliness, may retard a suffering, one of the most severe, that is incident to the bed of sickness.

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#### PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTION.

ON the first symptom of fever, the patient must be separated from the rest of the family, except his mother, and the necessary attendants, who ought also to keep themselves at a distance from all the rest. Linens of every description must be changed daily, and the blankets once in three or four days. Every article must be instantaneously soaked in cold water out of doors. Aromatic vinegar, sal volatile, camphor, or any strong scent that does not distress the sufferer must also be used. These precautions, and the admission of fresh air, will probably prevent the disease from spreading. The rich, for their own sake, and in mercy to the poor, should teach them, and furnish the means for such antidotes, and precautions. They

ought likewise to be strongly dissuaded from troublesome officiousness to their sick neighbours, by which the patient is disturbed, and the distemper communicated around. Sunday being most convenient, they often visit the diseased or afflicted before sermon, go to church with the miasm in their clothes, and probably many are affected. Children being the most liable to catch disorders, ought not to be permitted to go to places of worship where epidemics prevail.

IN Berlin, and in some other parts of Germany, houses are erected for the reception of dead bodies, as a measure calculated to prevent infection, by removing from the crowded dwellings of the poor, the risk of suffering from pestiferous exhalations. A certain sum is paid per night until the body be committed to the earth; but to induce the indigent to avail themselves of this advantage, it must be afforded gratis, and its benefits to all who may be within reach of the contagion are obvious. Another im-

portant object is also secured by effectual guarding against the most dreadful of deaths, premature inhumation. At the foreign institutions a watchman is continually in waiting, to warn the medical attendants, who are at all times prepared to use every means to restore vitality. •

#### FIRST IMPRESSIONS, TEMPER, AND OBEDIENCE

THE impressions received when all objects are new, and striking from the effect of novelty, seem so interwoven with the feelings and powers of the mind, as seldom to be eradicated by the admonitory or coercive endeavours of the most anxious parent. Nor are the active volitions of mature understanding always successful in correcting the distorted or defective images which have been stamped on the minds of infants. It should, therefore, be our first care to convey them in just form, colouring, and proportion. The general rules for this purpose are neither troublesome nor difficult; whilst their due ap

plication may prevent much severe and ineffectual labour. We would be astonished to find these interesting truths so frequently overlooked, did we not know, that the first stage of life is commonly managed by the nurse, who thinks only of keeping her charge quiet, without regarding the consequences. We must warn, however, the *inexperienced mother*, that very serious are the effects depending on first impressions; and the means employed to regulate them, and for ensuring the child's happiness in after life, will soon appear to the nurse more practicable and easy than her own method.

CUSTOM is justly said to be a second nature; and if parents would use its influence from the first dawn of intellectual light, they seldom would fail in making their children all they reasonably can desire. The irresistible effect of a nurse's external appearance is so generally allowed, that no person endowed with common sense will employ a woman who squints, winks, snuffs up the

air, keeps her mouth awry, or has any peculiarity in attitude or deportment. Let us apply this established rule to mental habits, and never expose an infant to the sympathetic effect of rage or peevishness, nor to that habitual irritation and discontent which arises from the indolence of an attendant who omits to supply wants, or to remove inconveniencies. The present evil is, in this case, the least, for the little one will outgrow helplessness, but a fretful temper may become rooted and incurable. If a child be kept clean and comfortable, and the functions of nature be regular, his clothes, quite, easy, and sufficient nourishment, amusement, and motion, be given to him by the nurse, he will seldom cry immoderately, except from real distress. But if she is inattentive to his comforts, or treats him with violence, or grumbles on account of the trouble she must undergo, he will imbibe her ill humour. She ought, therefore, to be made sensible, that by cheerful and patient exertion, much annoyance may be saved to herself. If her

charge appears very uneasy, or screams as if in pain, she ought to inform his mother, and immediately to loosen his dress, and examine every part, to ascertain whether he has received any external injury. Kind, soothing, and gentle motion must be employed to quiet him; but she should be taught invariably to abstain from bribing him to peace, by putting play things into his hands. If she indulges him in that habit, he will soon learn to cry from a wayward desire for novelties. We hope we shall not be conceived to mean that all the wishes of an infant are to be thwarted. We would not willingly vex a child at any age. Things improper or unsafe must be kept out of his view; and such gratifications as are suitable, if he asks them in good humour, should be granted immediately. But he must never experience our pity or compliance in consequence of vehement or surly importunity. The moment children discover that tears and murmurs have no effect, they become manageable, and acquire a habitual command over themselves.

As soon as a child can understand, and even before he is capable of profiting by expostulation, we must fix his attention by talking to him, bidding him remember, that he will never gain his desire by ill humour—but no angry emotion should be betrayed, as it would contradict our own precepts, and inflame his rage by bad example. We have often considered with inexpressible concern the severity of the pain inflicted on infants from mistaken zeal for their welfare. Let his mother, therefore, explain to the nurse that she will succeed better at that time, and may prevent many subsequent faults by mild treatment. By speaking in a serious tone she will engage his attention and touch his feelings; and as he is neither irritated nor terrified, if he be free from pain, he will listen in silence. Boundless indulgence on the one hand, and undue severity on the other, are both equally injurious. Even in early infancy the least appearance of a propensity to evil must be checked; but if the

feelings have not been blunted by harsh measures, a gentle rebuke will be sufficient. We can affirm from undubitable and repeated experience that there is little trouble with infants who have never been misled by silly compliances, or bad example, neither exasperated, nor severely overawed; but managed by gentle firmness, checking every impropriety in its first appearance. “Consider well what you are doing, my dear; this is worse than childish. A fool, or a monkey does mischief, but good children can divert themselves without plaguing any one, or spoiling the smallest article. Ask leave before you touch things, and you will seldom do amiss.” The habit of asking permission, is equivalent to seeking advice in advanced years; and to this we impute the good qualities of some young persons, who, with all the *naïvete* of childhood, and all the vivacity of hearts that never felt distress, amused themselves without incommoding older people. Continually under their mother’s eye, and following her when



going about her extensive concerns, the change from one place to another afforded exercise and diversion, and when at work, she allowed them full liberty to play beside her, and to take chairs, or any furniture that would not be injured in their sports, but each must be returned in safety to its proper place. To admonish and reprove was sometimes necessary, but neither invective nor chastisement was used—and at the age of seven or eight, there was seldom occasion for a rebuke. How comfortable, how beneficial is this method of management, when compared with that of fostering the passions in the first months of life, and then, by imperious prohibitions and commands, to make the poor infant cross, sly, and abject. No sooner can a child avail himself of locomotive power, in reaching the objects of his desire, than he is scolded and punished for putting them in disorder; but his attendant gives no intelligible rule to keep him from these offences; and as harmless employment for his activity has not been furnished, he

torments her and the elder children; and mamma, prepossessed by their complaints, joins in the general tyranny. Some one is always scolding or chastising him, and his mind is soured, or inflamed by feeling himself the object of general disapprobation. The voice of kindness never taught him to know right from wrong—his instruction has always been accompanied with painful associations—whatever, therefore, bears the semblance of an advice or a lesson is hateful. His plan of education is compulsory, and he is made insupportable to himself, and intolerable to others, by the means which are intended for his improvement.

A SHORT maxim to counteract improper propensities, and to produce resolute self-government, would prevent the miseries he endures from unprofitable chiding and correction, and by teaching him to revert to a simple principle which he is able to comprehend, the subsequent woes that may be avoided are beyond the reach of ordinary

calculation. Education can guard against or diminish almost all the evils of life; and as no obstacle to virtue can be insuperable; but by the choice of the individual, it must be our endeavour to give distinct perceptions for influencing the young mind to seek within itself for the motives of action.

CHILDREN are often suspected of prevarication, when in fact they misrepresent circumstances through habits of inadvertency. No attainment is more essential for youth than accuracy and promptitude in their observations; and by exercising their perceptions in this view, parents may improve them not only in common sense and useful knowledge—but in exact adherence to veracity. They should obtain explicit and precise replies to their inquiries, and their attention ought to be directed to the nature and properties of sensible objects, and to the causes and consequences of the occurrences that betide themselves, especially if advantage, or

inconvenience can be traced to their own conduct.

SOME young persons seem to have an intuitive sense of propriety, but unassisted by moral principles, this soundness of understanding, though it may preserve them from flagrant offences, will never rise above mere selfish wisdom. It is by exalting and refining the motives of action that a pious parent not only enhances the deserts, but promotes the truest happiness of her family; and in the discharge of her duty she must prepare herself to meet with almost daily occasion for the exercise of all her powers; for there is constantly some weakness to fortify, some extreme to moderate, and some defect to supply. Regardless of this momentous trust, what right has she to look for acceptance with that Almighty Being who is all-sufficient to keep neglected children in innocence, but his justice will bring the mother to a strict account for the breach of those

sacred engagements which she came under by her marriage vow? Though her sons and daughters should prove eminently meritorious, yet, conscious of negligence, she can never experience that exquisite delight which more than repays successful instruction. If her children be undutiful and profligate, which is likely to be the case, where indolent ease, sordid cares, or fleeting pleasures have deprived infancy of due superintendence, what misery can equal the compunctions of a mother who is self-condemned as accessory to the ruin of her offspring. Repentance may propitiate supreme mercy, but agonizing regrets must ever corrode the mind of that parent who unhappily has either her own supineness or rigour to blame for the aberrations of her children; or who feels a secret reproach in beholding excellence which she has not contributed to produce. Every well directed endeavour to promote moral improvement, must be attended with advantages not less durable than valuable; and the evils from which both the parents and

children may be exempted, are more to be dreaded than the most laborious cares in guarding against their introduction.

A YOUNG woman who has hardly ever estimated her own powers, will shrink with apprehension from a charge of such magnitude; but impelled by the most solemn ties—and urged by the most cogent claims in nature—she will, if earnestly desirous to fulfil these obligations, find herself enabled to impress the infant heart with virtues she had never before particularly cultivated, and speedily rise to attainments with which she had formerly little acquaintance. Let her, therefore, constantly keep in mind that the same course of duty must fit her child for comfort and respectability on earth, and for the happiness of endless ages; and that to remove every obstacle to the growth and perfection of virtue, with the least interruption to juvenile enjoyments, is the noblest exercise of female tenderness.

THE vivid sensibility of a fond mother, whilst it awakens many fears for failures on her part, will also animate her to encounter its difficulties. She will scrutinize her own disposition and opinions, and correct herself with candour and firmness, that she may be prepared to transfuse her best qualities into the susceptible hearts of her children. To establish her precepts, she will practise the most strict self-government, and always keep in view that every deviation from reason and justice has a tendency to injure the temper, the integrity and intellect of the object of her solicitude. If he shall see her in a passion, her violence will be imitated; if he shall be terrified, he will speedily attempt to deceive; and on this account the conduct of his nurse, his governess, or preceptors, ought to be equally circumspect.

THE habit of instantly seizing every opportunity that presents itself, will lead a mother, without any fatiguing effort, to communicate truths of the highest importance,

whilst her children playfully surround her in the bed-room or dressing-room, or when admitted as companions in her parlour and drawing-room, or at table, or in her walks. A child will at times give trouble to whosoever takes a deep interest in his behalf, during the most helpless and intractable stage of his existence. It is therefore the more necessary for his mother to *lend* her patient and judicious aid in bringing him to order, without injuring the finest shades in his disposition; and when little ones have lost their infantine simplicity, and have not yet attained a distinct sense of right and wrong, or habits of decorum, it will often try the parent's self-command, to suppress emotions that ought not, on any account, to be betrayed, as they will excite corresponding feelings in the ductile mind. Our radical mistake seems to be, that we judge, by ourselves, of a young creature as yet totally uneducated. But unless we endeavour to enter into his contracted and defective notions, his mistakes and misapprehensions, we can neither re-



strain his temper, nor impress his mind with principles that would save ourselves the painful labour of struggling with evil habits. There is no mother but may find sufficient leisure to perform a duty so indispensably necessary—to secure that purity of heart which gives rise to every virtue, and without which no virtue can exist. Even she, whose household affairs demand a large proportion of her time, may have her child led, or carried from place to place, as her different concerns may require her presence; and a few minutes devoted to reproof or admonition, will hardly interrupt any occupation in which she can be engaged. It is by short and sententious hints that impressions are most effectually made; and many uncouth gestures, vulgar phrases, and faults more fatally injurious, may be guarded against by these easy attentions. Let a mother set her heart on bestowing them, and she will find no difficulty in accomplishing the object of her views. In a smaller or greater degree, all parents endeavour to correct the failings of their chil-

dren when they cease to be playthings; and we earnestly entreat that it may be calculated how much easier it is to prevent than to cure bad customs, and how much more pleasant to give and to receive instruction, than to apply correction. By incessantly attending to the nurse's management, and commencing our cares so as literally "to teach the young idea how to shoot," we shall escape from many disquietudes occasioned by the disobedience and mischievous pranks of boys and girls, who ought to be models of goodness. Mismanaged children, as they advance in age, will corrupt their juniors; and though practice has improved a mother's method, yet if the first child is headstrong, or deceitful, he will counteract her best endeavours; and we need hardly suggest to her, that a few months, or years, devoted to infantine management, is less laborious than a continual warfare with turbulent or base passions. We have seen all the satisfaction derived from talents, acquirements, and accomplishments, utterly overwhelmed by so-

licitude and suspicions regarding a young person's behaviour when out, of sight. On the other hand, we have experienced the blessed effect of pure morals in adorning native gifts and elegant attainments, and in raising the possessor not only in the estimation of the good and wise, but in the opinion of those who could not define in what the secret charm of unaffected virtue and propriety of demeanour consisted.

IF the first child of a family has been taught a just sense of right and wrong, he will impart it to the rest both by word and deed; and though no parent will solely trust to the conversation and example of a child for instructing the younger branches, yet his auxiliary aid is of considerable importance. He who has learnt to govern himself by a regard to duty, will be capable of giving advice, when those who aim no higher than to avoid reproof and punishment, must be unfit to judge for themselves. The well instructed child will conduct himself irreproachably,

when the neglected youth is the cause of constant anxiety to his friends. The most amiable boys or girls require to have their principles sustained and confirmed, by our attending to point out those errors to which in childhood and in maturer age all mankind are liable; but it is the rich recompence of parents who furnish the opening mind with motives of moral action, that before the term of pupilage is completed, they are their own strict monitors, though the curb of authority should not always restrain them.

No exertion or privation requisite for preventing bad habits can be so severe as the afflictions which these bad habits may occasion. To mention only the painful apprehension produced in the minds of their parents, by doubts of the rectitude and the dread of the misconduct of young persons whom their own judgment should deter from transgression. Or let us but for a moment compare the most unabating care of infancy with that fruitless anguish arising from the

degrading marriage of a daughter, or the extravagance or dissolute manners of a son. We speak not of errors that entail disgrace; yet these, and all the woes originating from the misconduct of our offspring, may be avoided by the indelible impressions which might be made on the mind, by early lessons of virtue and wisdom. Further instruction is unquestionably requisite. Youth is beset with snares, and at that critical age, the suggestions of faithful friends are invaluable; and if confidence has been invited by endearing affability in tender years, no reserve will be devised. How advantageous must it be, to girls especially, to reveal all their wishes to the maternal adviser who is most interested in their welfare. We do not exaggerate in saying, that upon assiduous care in forming early habits, we must found our hopes of solid happiness for ourselves and for our family in after life. The first five years have hardly elapsed when the child is sent to school, or is committed to private tuition; and as time rolls on, the intervals

of separation are more frequent, and of longer duration. Let mothers, therefore, improve those hours when the little ones are under their immediate government, to give decided ascendancy to propensities that are to ensure, “not temporary benefits or “momentary elevation,” but all that can lead to peace and honour in this world, and prepare the soul for an inevitable change to regions unexplored by the ken of human beings. The happy pupils of reason, religion, and virtue, whose early impressions have been established into habits, as they advance to maturity, are disposed to pursue the most laudable conduct, as if by spontaneous impulse. Out of the fulness of pure sentiments, good actions will arise with ease and promptitude; and how blessed are the parents who behold these consequences arising from their wise vigilance, when contrasted with those who live in dread, or who suffer from wicked and shameful misdemeanors! Let her who bemoans the misery arising from her children’s faults attempt to declare what sacrifices

she would *now* undergo for *their* reformation. It is comparatively an easy performance so to train little infants as to render them docile, ingenuous, and steady to the dictates of rectitude; but if the foibles that oppose these qualities have been growing upon them for two or three years, they can hardly be overcome until the young person is capable of strenuous efforts to conquer bad habits; and before that period arrives he may be often involved in disgrace and anguish, which the care of his parents might have prevented. Whenever a child can pay attention to all that passes around him, it may safely be affirmed that his temper and disposition are beginning to be formed. From this moment, therefore, we should anxiously preserve him from all evil example. By firm yet gentle controul he should be trained to obedience, and by giving up the indulgence of her feelings in familiar fondling, and treating him with so much reserve as may secure to her the power of restraining his passions, a mo-

ther may render filial reverence coeval with the earliest traces of memory. But she must carefully avoid the least stretch of authority that might tempt him to duplicity; for if fear shall become his ruling passion, integrity cannot subsist, and anxiety to escape blame and punishment will mingle disguise and artifice with every word and action. Harsh treatment *spoils* the temper and enfeebles the mind, by repressing the proper spirit so necessary in transactions of any consequence in manhood; or if the portion bestowed by nature has been very ample, frequent irritation, will promote a violent or peevish tendency, which may render the ties betwixt parent and child, or any intimate connexion, a galling yoke. That hasty interchange of angry expressions by which the most valuable friendships are dissolved, that haughtiness which prevents reconciliation when differences arise, and those looks and words that lead to the decisions of false honour, are often, at least on one side, the consequence of ill-managed infancy. How careful, therefore, should a



mother be, not to let a boy feel those violent passions that may hereafter render him the victim or perpetrator of horrid murder! And what discomfort to a husband, to children, and dependents! What interruptions to social intercourse may be avoided by bringing up girls to habitual mildness!

IF the child has been left almost entirely to his nurse's government, his mother must look for trials of patience when she takes him under her own management. If it has been his misfortune to acquire bad habits, we must gradually effect amendment. We must not ruffle, confound, or frighten him; but mildly teach him first to comprehend, and then to perform our injunctions. We are not to expect from wrath or coaxing, nor even from the most judicious treatment, that we shall speedily infuse wisdom into a mind that has not one distinct notion. We must bear with and assist mental infirmity as we would sustain the tottering footsteps, when first the limbs attempt their office. The least error

committed in infancy, childhood, or youth, should be the subject of animadversion; but it will frequently require much pains to make a young child understand why he is rebuked, or how he is to amend his former conduct. If our counsels can be brought to a level with his apprehension and feelings, we shall in time convert roughness, pertinacity, and deceit, into gentleness, obedience, and ingenuousness. This happy change cannot be sudden, nor should we allow ourselves to be discouraged or impatient. If the child has learnt bad customs, he is the sufferer, and we who should have taken better measures for his government are in fault, and all the atonement we can make is to have recourse to the least distressing corrections. Timid infancy can hardly resist the suggestions of terror to hide offences if possible, and though severity should extort confession, or a promise of strict obedience to our injunctions, it implants no principle to hinder the child from committing a similar fault in our absence.

THEY who know least of infantine management, are generally the most tenacious and arbitrary in subjugating a rebellious spirit. Time and calm resolution will more thoroughly overcome it; and we may observe in some instances, that though the elder children have been treated with rigour, experience has taught the parents more lenity, and they succeed better in the tuition of the last than in the first part of their family. Young couples have perhaps vague and undefined ideas of filial duty, and do not always reflect, that to secure comfort to themselves, or real benefit to their children, obedience must flow from proper motives.

THAT homage to the superior wisdom of a parent which constitutes awe, is a salutary feeling to keep the volatile disposition of children within due bounds; but it differs essentially from fear, an abject restraint which paralyzes every noble energy of the mind. Indeed it is impossible exactly to foresee the result of any mode that may be

adopted to impress the human mind; but it is unquestionable that whatever tends to debase or to harden, though it may excite or restrain in single instances, can have no good effect in regulating the conduct in general. Is it difficult to say whether there is more injustice, cruelty, or folly in permitting children to acquire bad habits than in correcting them with impatience. The capricious whimsies of a young babe are thoughtlessly indulged, and these privileges are often withdrawn without consideration respecting his feelings. It would be much kinder and wiser to have always accustomed him to gentle restraint, whereby his checked and balanced desires would be more subject to reason in every stage of life.

IF an infant is greatly agitated, from whatever cause, time must be granted to conquer his feelings; and speaking to him, as we have already mentioned, in an authoritative, yet friendly voice, will gradually compose his mind. All who have paid any attention to

their own emotions, must know that these emotions are not to be checked instantaneously; and if this is admitted in regard to ourselves, how gentle and patient should we be towards a child under such circumstances. Indeed, there is danger, lest by suddenly and violently urging him to submission, you should deprive him of the power of self-control, and render him outrageous. If we are sure he is not in bad health, it would be wrong when he is cross to offer him amusements. Let him vent his sorrows, which, however trivial, or imaginary, he is unable momentarily to restrain, but it may be necessary to confine him in our fall view, telling him he must remain there disgraced till he becomes quiet, and has asked pardon for his misbehaviour. Disregarding his cries, and allowing him gradually to subdue and compose his feelings, if he is not really distressed, his murmurs will soon cease—the desire for liberty will hush them. This method carefully explained, and enforced among nursery maids, might prevent harsh mea-

sures that destroy the temper, understanding, and integrity of their charge. Under the influence of terrors, a child's perceptions cannot have free scope—yet every kind and degree of ability depends on their exercise. Nor will he have courage to be ingenuous, if impressed by a dread of severity. In youth the animal sensations are more than a counterpoise for the moral and intellectual powers, and few infants have fortitude to forego exemption from present suffering, though it must be purchased by artifice. Many performances may be forced upon little ones, but sincerity and truth must be the result of voluntary preference—and how often, alas! do nurses chastise hapless innocents for ill-humour or falsehood, superinduced by their own cruelty.

PEOPLE who are really kind-hearted are sometimes inconsiderately the cause of exposing children to the influence of frantic rage: but if it be true that the disposition is chiefly formed by habit, to excite any bad passion in

the flexible mind, by subjecting it to these agitations, is a step towards a common fault, and the power to oppose it is diminished. Servants who are very tender so far as relates to personal comforts, have no scruple in irritating the feelings of their charge. We have seen an infant driven almost to phrensy by mockery; and if these paroxysms are frequent, all self command will consequently be lost. Teazing and derision will embitter the best temper, and are more intolerable to a sensible spirit than pain, or any other trial of juvenile fortitude. The oppression exercised by one child over another, either at home or at school, renders injustice and gross misrepresentation habitual; so that moral rectitude, or conciliating manners are hardly to be acquired in maturer age.

ELDER children are apt to impair the comfort, and injure the temper of little ones by this practice; but it must be peremptorily interdicted. They must be told it is cruel and

mean-spirited to annoy those who are unable to defend themselves. And to remove all causes for discord, to prevent and to reconcile differences, must be the constant study of those who manage children. If they have been taught the golden rule, and daily occasions have been embraced to bring its dictates home to their "business and bosoms," they will not be apt to commit selfish injustice: but we must give both example and precept in dealing justly, by showing no partiality. The merits of children are nearly equal, if regarded without prejudice. If there is a natural defect, it claims our pity—if an obstinate fault disgusts us, it is probably owing to our mismanagement; and equity demands that the means to cure it shall be tenderly adopted. Preference to the disposition most congenial to our own, or to remarkably engaging qualities, is perhaps unavoidable; but these feelings must not interfere with the claims of justice—and though the child who is less favoured may prudently bury his sor-



rows in his own bosom, they must be deep and discouraging.

JEALOUSIES and dissensions will arise among children, unless they are treated with equal indulgence; and the parent must answer to the Judge of all the earth for the sorrows her partiality has occasioned. A family cannot prosper without concord, which, in a great measure depends on a mother's management. One child must not be praised at the expense of another, and no invidious comparisons must be drawn. All complaints of each other should be disallowed—all exulting in conscious superiority ought to be checked by mortifying rebukes—and children must never be made the agents of opprobrium, by allowing them to scoff at one who happens to be a delinquent. This practice destroys affection, impairs the feeling of shame, and gives rise to resentment, retaliation, and insensibility of heart. They should be instructed to feel for one another when in disgrace, and they should not be prohibited from interceding.

IF any misfortune of mind or body lays a child under disadvantages, our soothing attention should place him on a level with the rest of his companions; nor will it create jealousy if no improper indulgence has spoiled the child's temper. Even in the event of a weakly constitution, self-command must be inculcated; for no creature has such numerous discontents as a child who, from his sickly state of body, has been always allowed to give way to unreasonable fancies; and the rest of the family, whose natural pity would be inclined them to go great lengths for his accommodation, will be teased into dislike. Stubborn known children consoled under their infirmity by parental fondness, yet gently denied every improper liberty; and we are also known feeble intellect invigorated, and in process of time made to appear respectable by the prudent and amiable delicacy of a mother. Whatever may be the imperfections or faults of our children, it is foolish and barbarous to expose them. The weakness or transgression of a child ten years old, will

be remembered at twenty, though amendment has been effected. This must be baneful to girls; nor will boys quite escape unfavourable recollections. It ought to be often held out to themselves to induce to circumspection, and it should seal the lips of impatient parents, who upbraid their young people before strangers.

A CHILD who has been separated from the rest, from being unused to competitors, or to the family modes, may, on his return, appear unaccommodating, or peculiar; but his mother should lead the rest, by frank cordiality, to overcome bashfulness, or sullen reserve in the stranger. Even rugged tempers are softened by endearment, but coldness and derision would drive the isolated child to indifference.

A FAMILY of boys and girls who had frequent and violent quarrels, were brought, by a mild expedient, to live together in perfect harmony. Their aunt visited her sister;

and observing the disagreement among her children, advised that they should have hours for recreation, singly in succession. Each attempted solitary amusement; but soon felt the value of social participation; and those feelings received a right direction from their gentle monitor, who, in language suited to their capacity, represented the sin and folly of discord, and the numerous advantages of mutual concession and forbearance. Consequences of which young creatures have never thought nor heard—but which their sensibility and quick perception will readily comprehend—may be suggested by a judicious superintendent; and produce the happiest effects on their conduct.

#### INGENUOUSNESS, TRUTH, AND RECTITUDE. .

INFANTS whose perceptions have been exercised by judicious and good-humoured parents, have an accuracy in their ideas and remarks which preserves them from heedless

misrepresentation; and the pious and moral principles they have imbibed from their beloved and revered instructors will make intentional violations of truth repugnant to their habits. Children who live on easy terms with their rulers, maintain a cheerful self-possession highly conducive to quickening their discernment; and a generous independence of spirit raises them above duplicity: but the terrified abject creature, confused by dread of incurring penances, will inadvertently commit faults, and seek to repair or to conceal them by mean subterfuges. The less restraint or apprehension of suffering we shall impose, if at the same time the children are provided with affecting and rational motives to discriminate carefully between right and wrong, they will prove the more ingenuous, upright, and uniformly obedient in every situation. The surest preservative for integrity is to give no cause, in self-defence, for youth to take refuge in deception. A child who dreads severe treatment will be afraid to reveal even his inno-

cent intentions. Having no precise knowledge of good or evil, and uncertain what may or may not subject him to chastisement, he skinks from disclosing his wishes or actions on all occasions, and disguise and prevarication become habitual long before he has any distinct conception of duties or crimes. The sense of insecurity agitates, perplexes, and depresses his mind; and thus, by well-meant, but fatal eagerness for correcting puerile follies, he is impelled to customs more pernicious than the failings his nurse has sought to eradicate. The propensity to speak truth, and to have no concealments, is so natural, that infants are never known to attempt deception, if treated with mildness, and withheld from bad example. It is not want of honesty, but want of fortitude, that first ensnares children in falsehood: and if their courage shall not be too severely tried, their instinctive horror against untruth will gradually ripen into settled principles of veracity. The heaviest misfortune that can befall a human being, the loss of in-

tegrity, originates in governing the first stage of life by impositions on credulity or timidity. Children soon penetrate the artifices by which they are cajoled, stimulated, or restrained. They will avail themselves of similar devices for compassing their own ends, or to hide their offences; and all the penalties or admonitions employed to deter them from indirect and dishonourable ways, will perhaps fail in restoring an acute and steadfast sense of rectitude. Forbidden gratifications and opportunities to transgress should not be in the power of children; and if we suspect a child he ought not to be interrogated, as it might tempt him to deny or to misrepresent facts. Our humane laws require no delinquent to condemn themselves; and if scrupulous lenity, equity, and fair dealing was observed in the management of infancy, we should hear few complaints of cunning or insincerity. In this, as in all other cases, the omnipotence of custom ought to be continually kept in view. To save a child from one temptation to falsehood, is of the highest importance, as each

separate offence tends to familiarize him to that degrading vice, and approximates his character to habitual baseness.

NURSES, who are proud of keeping their charge *in great order*, are apt to rule them as if all virtue must flow from absolute authority and subjugation; and teachers who have paid little attention to the ultimate consequences of the treatment given to youth, are prone to the same error; but parents who know how to prize an erect and manly spirit of rectitude, will enjoin all to whom they delegate their own power, whilst they require subordination to encourage so much independence as may preclude servile fear, which never fails to contract and to enfeeble the intellect, and to subvert every moral and honourable feeling in the heart where that basest and most malevolent of passions obtains the ascendant. The most shallow contemptible mortal may inflict this dire calamity on defenceless little ones; but to govern them by a firmness that ensures submission,



without impairing their native ingenuous freedom, is the performance of a beneficent, liberal, and lofty mind, which must produce corresponding elevation of sentiment and substantial worth in the pupil. Care and gentle treatment are essential to health of body and intellectual vigour. Obedience to reasonable commands accustoms a child to habits of self-control; but a slavish subjection to caprice or needless restraint destroys the clear discrimination of moral truth, perplexes the ideas of right and wrong, and introduces all the odious passions which lead to cunning, suspicion, and malevolence.

It will be found in general, that the most ingenuous, amiable, and upright characters have in their childhood been preserved from all debasing and irritating emotions, and taught to respect the feelings of those around them. Ease of body, and tranquillity of mind, with a considerable degree of freedom and indulgence, are favourable to every attainment of which the wisest and tenderest parents can

wish their children possessed; while, on the contrary, every species of tyranny in infancy, childhood, or youth, not only embitters present existence, but strikes at the root of the most valuable social virtues.

THE abovementioned truths ought to be carefully explained to nurses, preceptors, and governesses, who treat children with rigour, only because they are unacquainted with better methods; and they will conscientiously endeavour to adopt a system which will largely augment their influence, without diminishing their authority.

THE expedients employed for pleasing little ones are often inimical to their moral principles. It is common to scold an elder brother or sister, or to treat some object animate or inanimate, when nurse means to shew the baby he has done amiss; but in place of leading him to amendment, she is teaching him to blame others when he alone is culpable. The smallest fault should be

reproved in proportion to its magnitude; and great care bestowed in making the effort to comprehend why he has incurred a rebuke;—but the slightest deviation from facts in addressing him must be injurious to his integrity at a future period.

NURSE imagines she is very kind in pretending to steal, or run away with some nice eatable or play thing for her darling; and it is very natural that he, as soon as he can, shall take the same liberty; but his mother may easily convince a sensible domestic that she hazards the child's most valuable interests, by such an example; and that he should neither hear nor see what would be wrong for him to imitate when he is older. Lively sportive children very early attempt to snatch the object of their wishes between jest and earnest; but if they should secretly, or with pretended mirth, possess themselves of even a bit of sugar, they must be deprived of it with the most striking signs of horror—and all their roguish arts to turn it to a joke

must be repulsed with a solemn countenance.

To inspire a deep regard to the rights of others, and to repress covetous inclinations, it will be necessary to instil in the hearts of children a conviction, that they ought to touch nothing which does not belong to themselves, without asking leave. This habit should commence whenever they begin to move about.

SOME young creatures never see a drawer, or closet opened, but they are clamorous for sweetmeats, fruit, or toys. This is the consequence of giving those unprofitable indulgences during early infancy; and without any trouble may be guarded against, by uniformly denying such requests, even before the babe can in words express his importunity. Human nature is so prone to error, that the least approach is to be dreaded; and by playful signs of approbation, to encourage lisping prattlers to feign ignorance when they

know how to express a sentence, may eventually lead to culpable impositions. By gravely making them repeat it till they pronounce the word aright, the attempt to deceive will be checked, and they will besides sooner learn to articulate distinctly.

THERE are numberless ways to divert and please a child without countenancing his failings; and much fondling, or a profusion of endearing phrases is dangerous after he has begun to notice circumstances minutely. He will repeat these kind words and actions by rote for some time; but when he shall have discovered that we are pleased, he will soon resort to them as flattery. Fawning must be gently discouraged; as far from maturing affection, it substitutes designing semblance in place of genuine feeling. We may put a stop to these affected endearments by saying, "if you love me; you will wish to make me happy; and you can only make me happy by being a good child."

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To remove all temptations to artifice or ambiguity, let a child have no cause to be afraid of coming to the point at once in every request. Not only plain dealing, but obedience may be superinduced by this liberty; for he may be taught to make it a point of honour to give up his inclination, if he finds that we cannot approve of it. We can never be at a loss for opportunities to convince him that self-denial will upon the whole promote his happiness; and to show him that candour and honesty are the "best policy." Every advantage gained by low arts may be represented as degrading, and attended with secret anxiety; and these wholesome truths, when deeply imbibed, become a firm foundation for upright and rational conduct.

INFANTS, who are perfectly ingenuous, are sometimes too communicative; but it is dangerous to curb this foible till the mind can make some clear distinctions. They should hear or see nothing unfit for repeti-



tion, and their candour must not be perplexed; for if their parents reprove them for rehearsing what is in itself a fact, the remonstrance of a servant will easily persuade them to artful concealments.

TALE-BEARING, as it is commonly called, is a habit pregnant with degrading consequences, as it seldom fails to produce censoriousness and falsehood; and we may limit even a young child's communications, so far as to hinder him from accusing any one—  
“That you must not speak to the disadvantage of the meanest creature,” is a rule that does not contradict the foregoing observations.

THE *inexperienced mother* can hardly be ware of the manifold snares which environ her little ones, if she is not at pains to prevent the inquiries and pretended secrets, by which a detestable inquisitiveness is sometimes excited to answer the purposes of an insidious

domestic. By listening at *doors*, peeping into letters, and other mean devices, a child is taught to purloin intelligence, and probably hereafter, to be a pest to society. Infants must be allowed to speak the truth, but they must also be taught the utmost abhorrence of all indirect means of satisfying their curiosity; and we should not suggest the idea, unless we discover that they have been guilty of such practices. As soon as they can understand that it is ill-bred and foolish to chatter about their own concerns, or the affairs of others, they must be made to avoid it.

A REASONABLE steady attention will not give rise to perpetual dictates and inhibitions, which unfit a young person to act with self-possession and discrimination. Temptations may be kept out of a child's way, and foibles may be restrained without letting him perceive much of our solicitude. Let him see that we believe him capable of good conduct, and he will respect himself. As infantine follies subside, let him gradually receive

marks of confidence in his honour and secrecy, treating him as a friend and companion, and he will make returns of frankness, unconscious of any reservation that might endanger his safety. His sense of rectitude and propriety will withhold him from actions he would blush to own; and, encouraged by candour and gentleness, he will apply to us to prevent the consequences of venial errors.

THE unspeakable advantage of interesting children in our concerns, and discussing with them such points as are proper to be laid before them, can only be known to those who have had the happiness of profiting by the acute, but respectful suggestions of filial counsel, and have enjoyed the intense delight of seeing the lively girl, and animated youth, improved by the exercise of their judgment. It will be found very useful to keep in view that the period is not very distant when our children are to act with perfect independence, and that they may greatly surpass us in worth, in ability, and in every

honourable distinction. This deference will help to govern our own humours, dispose us to render obedience pleasant, promoting mutual affection, placid and substantial enjoyments.

IN families of rank and opulence, where multiplied engagements encroach on parental cares, an experienced governess ought to form the disposition and first habits of those who are to become leading members of the community. In a few solar revolutions, no expense will be spared for masters to teach accomplishments that may be deemed fashionable; but it is at least of equal importance to preserve health, and to shield children from that harsh or inconsistent management, which so sadly perverts the infant mind. The governess will doubtless guard against bad customs, and instil lessons of virtue, which, with all first impressions, ought to be received through the medium of cultivated intellect; but after the utmost care to store the mind with moral perceptions, the watch-

ful superintendent must aid a young novice in establishing habits of acting up to his own convictions, by removing all occasions of offence. Infants are too weak to resist temptation and opportunity, and, as we formerly observed, since habits are the result of repeated sensations and deeds, the utmost care to prevent transgression is well bestowed.

WHERE there are several nurses, an enlightened superior is yet more necessary; not only to counteract the disadvantage of copying unpolished manners and language, but likewise to prevent the attendants from setting the children at variance, by each extolling her own favourite, and depreciating the rest. All the encomiums are generally on beauty, vivacity, or on gaudy dress; and though no harm be intended, much is often occasioned by engendering envy, vanity, and strife.

THE pain and fever which attend the cutting of the double teeth, and changing the

others, unhinge without confining children, and make them drowsy, listless, or fretful, when difficulties occur in their tasks. We must not be too quick-sighted in observing these foibles, and more exercise and relaxation are necessary than when they are in full health. Our sympathy, however, is not to be intimated, as it might tempt the children to exaggerate their sufferings; and when they are really indisposed, it will be proper to tell them, that for the sake of truth, and to enable us to employ proper remedies, they must state the symptoms exactly.

As about this time they ought to have some charge of their ordinary dress and necessaries, when they are uneasy, without being seriously ill, they may be diverted whilst usefully and actively employed in arranging their drawers, giving and receiving their clothes from the laundress, or assisting the younger children in these performances. They should learn that their parents are delighted to observe punctuality in these lesser

points, as neglecting them would gradually lead to failure in higher duty; and they should be often reminded that small faults, if not amended, generally entice a child to commit greater.

THEY should also be made to know, that all they are permitted to use, is the property of their parents, and that honour demands them to manage it carefully; and that even if it were their own, it would be sinful to spoil the most trifling article, as it may be useful to poor people. These admonitions are more effectual to induce care and attention, than incitements arising from selfish and sordid motives.

PARENTS object to bring little ones to table, as simple diet is best for them; but the erring kindness of servants will convey to them a more abundant share of *good things* than a prudent mother would allow. A child's integrity may be saved, and his stomach preserved from injury, by giving him a small

portion of the luxuries that cover the parental board; and besides, his manners must be improved by admission there. If the delicacies are first given, he will not be tempted to excess in finishing his dinner with plain food, of which he should be allowed as much as his appetite requires. But we cannot approve of compelling him to eat of any dish he dislikes. If necessity should constrain him to make a meal of that particular food, his antipathy will give way to the urgency of circumstances.

#### RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION THE BASIS OF MORAL RECTITUDE.

INTELLECTUAL improvement includes the whole term of existence. In childhood, we endeavour to form dispositions and habits for youth. In youth, it is our object to qualify our pupil for maturity. In every stage, to fix our thoughts on the preparation for eternity, is the only infallible guide for instruction. The mother, as she clasps her



smiling babe, should resolve to keep steadfastly in mind, that he is the undoubted heir of immortality, and to give him an early and exalted sense of his glorious destination. This belief firmly established, will add a grace and refinement to his ordinary actions. Godliness is indeed profitable above all things. Besides insuring eternal bliss, it is the copious fountain of virtues, the most conducive to our present welfare, and makes a child attentive to the comfort of all with whom he is connected. He who, from his remotest recollection, has loved and adored his Heavenly Father, will prove affectionate and submissive to his earthly parents, and obedient to his instructors. As he advances in age, untainted by vicious propensities, he will apply with vigour and diligence to every virtuous pursuit. If he fails in his endeavours, he will not fail through misconduct—and if he succeeds, he will prosper with honour to himself, and unalloyed satisfaction to his friends. The best concerted schemes often disappoint

us in the aggrandisement they have promised; but the esteem due to genuine worth, and the heartfelt peace inspired by conscious rectitude, no external misfortunes can destroy.

If any motive can make a young person truly faithful, and strict in the performance of all his duties in all the relations of life, it must be the reference to a Divine Superintendent, and the prospect of certain responsibility. These convictions may be imparted without formal lectures, which are usually so irksome to children, that impatience prevents any impression on the mind; but every mental faculty, and moral feeling, may be quickened and improved by giving a cheerful and ingenious turn to remarks on common events. These daily occurrences afford the most suitable lessons to affect young minds with delineations of the true and attractive charms of virtue, or to expose the deformity and egregious folly of vice. The grand *arcana* of instruction are to combine with it some familiar and agreeable associations; and

we may oppose a darling passion indirectly and pleasantly, by pointing out its consequences in others, so as to engage a child's own sensibility and understanding to resist its seductions. But the most efficacious means to guard against, or to reclaim from error, is to accustom our pupil to nightly self examination. It will teach him to reverence his own heart, and to shun offences which he knows must soon be the cause of self-reproach and disapprobation.

ALL is novelty to infants—and in tracing and explaining the beneficent activity of the great Author of nature, we may inspire them with a desire to imitate his goodness. The Almighty is not to be represented as distant—but as ever near, ever observant of the child's conduct, and ever bestowing mercies. We should also infuse the hope of spending eternity in the presence of unblemished holiness, and lead our pupils to consider how carefully they should avoid a thought, word, or deed, unworthy of such a privilege. It

is by this deep and habitual sense of the soul's pre-eminence over the body, that they will perceive a clear distinction between good and evil, when their minds are able to grasp these ideas—and we, by whom they are communicated, must so affect our own hearts, as to give the force of truth to our exhortations. When we contemplate all within us and about us, we must feel and discern that endless life is intimated by incontestible proofs. The bare idea of eternity is too immense, too stupendous to be entertained, except by a spirit conscious of inherent claims to that bright reversion. Powers and capacities formed for continual increase, and endless expansion, cannot be limited by our three score and ten years—and the wonderful effects of immaterial spirit, which, even in this imperfect state, has a separate and independent capacity for action, may confirm our faith in the promises of eternal life, exhibited in the word of God. This assurance of hope ought to awaken a steadfast zeal to secure for ourselves, and for our offspring, an

inheritance, without which existence would be a curse; and old age, to reflecting minds, a series of miserable despondency. Every means by which pleasure is communicated to the senses must fail; but religion presents an exhilarating cordial, when all other delights are successively deserting us. With what grateful homage will the aged invalid recal to mind the instructions of an affectionate parent, who led him to lay up treasure in those regions of glory to which he is hastening. Riches may purchase accommodations and mercenary attendance, but they cannot procure release from pain, nor reconcile us to the irresistible encroachments of decrepitude and disease. It is the exclusive excellence of consistent piety, to rise superior to mortal infirmities.

AN infant should be accustomed to stated periods of intercourse with his Creator, as soon as he can articulate a few devotional expressions; and these ought to be adapted as much as possible to his youthful apprehen-

tious fear from the sentiments we seek to inspire. For, to warm the affections, without enlightening and satisfying the understanding, can never produce operative and genuine piety. The indissoluble connection between religion and moral rectitude must ever be maintained. *If ye love God, ye will avoid evil, and do good*;—a maxim which ought to be inculcated on the mind from the earliest capacity to retain impressions.

EVERY improvement in opinions, or practice, depends on convincing children that religion is friendly to all innocent enjoyments. To disfigure her august and lovely form with the sable garb of gloom and austerity, shows little acquaintance with her true spirit, or with the human heart.

IF Sabbath-day duties are made sad and burthensome, a child's own feelings will contradict our assertions, that to be 'good,' is to be happy. We may edify without dejecting; we may amuse by scripture stories and

hymns, such as can be understood by our infantine auditors, and we may deeply interest by representations of that state which eye hath not seen, but which imagination, eagerly aspires to conceive. We must give to religion the most engaging aspect. No painful feeling should be associated with pious exercises. No duty connected with divine worship can be rendered burthensome, without impairing a child's devotional affections. If he is made to read the bible as a toilsome task, before he can proceed with fluency; and if he be required to commit to memory certain extracts from the sacred volume, which he does not understand; and cannot distinctly retain—if he shall be punished on Monday for deficiency in accomplishing the laborious attempt; or taken to church before he can sit there quietly; and is chastised for restlessness—can it be possible for him to take pleasure in precepts or performances that create to him so much suffering? The parent defeats her own aim by over anxiety.—But if she would read to her pupil;

explaining the tenor of the Holy Scriptures, so far as he can comprehend their influence in promoting true happiness, his susceptible heart would be affected with veneration and gratitude. He can derive no instruction from going through the Evangelical Books before he has learnt to put sentences together; and he contracts a dislike perhaps to any study that has been productive of distress: but select passages expounded by a judicious endearing mistress cannot fail in touching his feelings, and, by frequently renewing the impression, a permanent efficacy may be ensured. Let him be taught to revere the Church, as the house appointed by his Heavenly Father and best Benefactor, for *His* people therein to meet, that they may implore *His* blessing and guidance—and if the child is not taken to hear the service until he has acquired self command to comport himself with decorum, he would perhaps, through life, cling steadily to the pleasing and edifying lessons of his infant years.



IN assisting the operations of the tender mind, either on sensible objects or upon religious and moral truths, the first principles are to be explained in a few simple words, leaving the child to reflect upon them: for, by introducing many ideas, we shall confuse and distract his attention. After some time we should encourage him to tell us his own sentiments, and we may proceed to show him the changes made by human art and industry on material substances, or the connexion of one virtue with another, and with his own happiness, so as to excite the use of his understanding in the pursuit of information. We have known Sunday regarded as a day of peculiar enjoyment, because the mother had more leisure to converse with her family. She did not, however, confine herself entirely to evangelical instruction; but, as far as her ability extended, the works of nature and the inventions of man, in the whole circle of science, were made subservient to piety and moral improvement, inciting the ardent spirit to carry some accession of know-

ledge and goodness into each succeeding week. This plan had a much better effect upon the heart and understanding than long chapters, psalms, and hymns, committed to the memory, with weariness and disgust, and without affixing accurate ideas to the words repeated. The short portion allotted will be cheerfully learned, when the child knows it may be easily performed; and a mother who has not much time on week days, should make it a rule to converse with her children on the day of rest. She cannot comply with the sacred institution more effectually than by infusing into the minds of her offspring some useful knowledge connected with serious duties; and all her endeavours to inculcate human wisdom, and to qualify her charge for worldly pursuits, may be assisted by a constant reference to the great duties of life. The difficulty will be to find words by which accurate ideas may be conveyed. We must encourage the children to ask explanations; and by placing the same sentiments in different points of view, we may at

least engage an assiduous attention, which through time must store their minds with information.

WHEN the reasoning powers are in some measure commensurate to the subject, the doctrines of the Christian faith are to be gradually and clearly detailed—but until the mind is capable of examining proofs, it would be improper to give the least intimation that proofs are to be demanded. When we think a young person can weigh and attend to them, we ought previously to prepare ourselves so as to lay open the most complete and irrefragable testimony. Christianity, established on the firm foundation of convincing evidence, will soften, enlarge, and illuminate the heart, and give life and spirit to duties the most discouraging and opposite to their passions and interests. No parent has ever repented bestowing such instructions, but numbers have bewailed the omission when too late.

## MATERNAL TUITION.

It is good for an infant to be unable to recollect when a whole day passed without employment. The habit of patient application is in itself of vast advantage; and after a short detention in taking a lesson, the time allotted for play will afford much greater enjoyment. By commencing early, a custom of trifling is prevented; and a sure though very gradual progress will be attained without disgusting the pupil by compulsory tasks. A parent or governess who have guided the first movements of a child's reason, must possess peculiar facilities for fixing his attention. He should be prepared for study, by telling him of the many diverting, or touching events, that are to be found in books; and when he is very anxious for such entertainment, we may put off the relation for some time, adding, "how fortunate are the children who can furnish themselves with

“ such pretty stories—you should make haste  
“ and learn to read.” A little girl, or boy,  
perhaps hears an excursion proposed, in which  
the elder children are to partake. They nat-  
urally entreat to go likewise, and we have  
another opportunity of inculcating the ad-  
vantages of instruction, by replying, “ you  
“ are not yet prepared—but you may hasten  
“ the period for such indulgence. Learn to  
“ read fluently; and to remember and com-  
“ pare the things and circumstances mention-  
“ ed in books, with those you may meet  
“ when you go from home. You will then  
“ have much greater pleasure in new sights,  
“ and I shall have no cause to be ashamed of  
“ your ignorance.” Here are powerful mo-  
tives; the hope of enjoyment in travelling,  
and the fear of incurring contempt. If we  
can but awaken in the mind a deep-felt de-  
sire for information, and preserve a moderate  
degree of ardour in the pursuit, the pupil  
will, in due time, learn to make inquiries and  
distinctions. In process of time he will con-  
tract a liking for the volumes that assist him

in these intellectual operations, if the preceptor shall take care not to disgust him by making it a wearisome task. When averse to his lesson, instead of using the rod, which only increases the dislike, let the book be laid aside, saying, "amusement is the reward of diligence, and since you are idle, you must keep your seat." He will soon consider this a greater evil than his task, which must be withheld until he asks it as a favour. We have known little ones happily unspoiled by superabundant caresses, or extravagant praises for trivial performances, take great pleasure in their initiatory studies, merely to obtain their mother's approbation. Walking with her, or seated in her lap in the twilight, when they could not so well divert themselves, they learnt to put letters together; and these sounds being familiar to their ear, it soon became easy to form syllables on the book. Slight circumstances may be converted into much use in managing young scholars. If a child is remarkably dull, an elder brother or sister should help him to prepare the por-

tion he is to read, and when he comes to go over it as a lesson, he will deserve to be commended, which will encourage perseverance.

It is certainly incumbent on the teacher to make the most of time; but over-anxiety retards the progress of education. Lessons to a beginner should be short, though frequent; and gradually increased, as difficulties yield to practice. Helping him to observe a few amusing particulars, will render study interesting; as for instance, to find out the changes made by adding one or more letters, as in old, older, cold, coldness; scold, scolding, &c. Ten minutes of animated and frequent exertion will do more to improve a Tyro than hours of drawling and regardless poring over pages; and we must take care to allow no bad habits in pronunciation, gestures, or attitudes. They may be prevented with little trouble, but to cure them, when once acquired, would be a laborious endeavour. When tempted to give way to our own indolence, or the child's solicitations,

for a lengthened term for play, let us look forward to futurity: to the greater hardships arising from inert and trifling habits; and let us turn *his* attention to the happy effects of the time already spent in learning what appeared at first a distasteful drudgery. After all, we must not be too eager to extort great efforts, that we may neither endanger health, wear out the spirits, nor create disgust, by prolonging tasks beyond the power of voluntary exertion. When a very young pupil seems drowsy, we should find him some active employment for a few minutes, without imposing it as a task, and he will become fresh and gay.\* This will promote his improvement more speedily than chastisement and harsh expressions, which make children detest their books. An older pupil should be kindly and cheerfully exhorted to resist lassitude; and by saying that “all good children strive to overcome every inclination which opposes duty.”

\* WE must habituate our pupils to complete



their attempts in the best manner of which they are capable; and the surest preventive of carelessness is to oblige them to repeat the task, till due accuracy results from the execution. Triflers ought to have a limited, but sufficient time for each employment, and our requisitions should be moderate, but peremptory. Children soon discover irresolution in their rulers, and are consequently more remiss in their application. They ought to be taught to set a high value on time; to consider that it cannot be recalled, and that there is but a limited portion of that precious possession for all they have to perform. “These sentiments are infinitely preferable  
“to a spirit of emulation, which often pours  
“poison into the heart, whilst it improves the  
“head.”—We would again and again beseech parents and teachers not to discourage dull and diffident scholars. A little more time and assiduity will enable them to accomplish the most valuable ends of study—if the mind be not depressed, they may, perhaps, outstrip at the end of their career, the more lively

genius, who at school regarded their laborious efforts with disdain. It will be said, the boy soon forgets his alarm or sorrow: true, but not till he gets out of school. The mist of fear obscures and weighs down his powers at the very critical moment when he stands most in need of their support.

BEFORE any book is put into the hands of children, its tendency should be scrupulously scanned; for they never ought to read any sentiment that may not be adopted as a principle of conduct. Pompous descriptions of splendour and decoration, or any suggestion that diminishes the value, or disturbs the contentment found in humble utility, leads to affected sensibility, or ostentatious benevolence; or whatever is unfavourable to simplicity of heart and manners, ought never to be admitted. We cannot approve of fables for very young children. They are incapable of drawing moral inferences; and the accounts of reasoning animals, and speaking plants, incline them to credulity, or at least, to con-

found their ideas. And, perhaps, it may excite some fertile imagination to embellish a recital of common incidents. Fictitious representations should be withheld from them till experience has taught the juvenile mind to distinguish between facts and fancied relations. Simple narratives of good moral tendency, which are entirely probable in real life, evince the danger of bad passions, and the blessings resulting from worthy principles and conduct, are the only species of tales with which they may safely be made acquainted. The youthful mind is prone to what is marvellous, and we must carefully correct this propensity. It is a sacred duty, that to all the inquiries of children, answers are to be returned with the strictest veracity, and in terms the most easy to be understood. Superior abilities, and superior worth are attained only by strict adherence to truth in knowledge, sentiment, and communication; and we must not suffer children to hear or read what might subject us to the risk of being detected by them in evading or abusing

their curiosity. A little girl happening to pay a visit with her parents, met with a book of Fables in the drawing-room, and with much labour and difficulty read a page or two. Her astonishment in reading of frogs having spoken to boys, was expressed with an ingenuity very amusing to the company; but their remarks occasioned much difficulty to her mother, in preventing the child from discovering that untruths were put together to divert little girls. She had not yet arrived at an age to distinguish between invention and falsehood, and her genius was too penetrating to be easily satisfied. Her remarks may be given hereafter, and in the mean time, it will be sufficient to observe, that we may find in books of geography, and natural history, particulars that ought to be known and remembered, capable of raising as much wonder and admiration as a young heart can contain. A selection of this kind for the nursery would be very entertaining for the maids, and make deep impressions on the little ones, when read or rehearsed to them.

Parents, by relating these informations, have it in their power to make children more distinctly acquainted with each circumstance; and to call to their recollection what each country produces, and what particular object, either natural or artificial, are to be found in it. This would be an easy and pleasant amusement for their earliest years; and it might prevent many silly and illiberal prejudices arising from ignorance.

WE have enabled beginners to read amusing books, by giving lessons with an elder child, who was capable of reading or spelling the most difficult words, and much artless emulation appeared in the infant, who was thus stimulated to attempt what seemed so easy to a brother, or sister, only a year or two further advanced in life. It would be a vast improvement to collect all words that exceed one syllable, and to place them properly divided at the commencement of the chapter, with a glossary couched in the most simple terms. This would afford more as-

sistance to the scholar, than separating the parts as they occur in the book; for children who are accustomed to have the syllables divided, are quite at a loss, when they meet them otherwise joined. Emphasis, and punctuation must be taught from a subject with which the child is well acquainted, for if he has not been previously familiarized with it, his feelings and understanding cannot second our instruction.

THE lessons in Mr. Lindley Murray's spelling book, are admirably suited for this purpose; and indeed, we have seen no elementary volume which in so small a compass unites so great advantages. From the same judicious friend, an abridgment of the Old and New Testament would be an invaluable service to the rising generation. It is a great error in many stories intended for infants, to describe the arts and transgressions of base characters. They ought not to hear of lying, deceit, fraud, artifice, dishonesty, or any other wickedness, further than what cannot

be avoided in their intercourse with the world. In giving geographical lessons to children we may call their attention to numerous evidences of the Divine power, wisdom, and goodness; and even at a very early age, this branch of instruction may commence as an amusement. On the maps and globe, places may be distinguished with as much ease as one letter from another in the alphabet; and, elder brothers and sisters may recapitulate that knowledge which they have formerly acquired to much advantage, in making the infant acquainted with the capital cities, rivers, mountains, and productions of different countries. There will still be much to learn; but when certain particulars are deeply impressed on the memory, further attainments are more distinct and pleasant: and in every branch of education, it is better to know a little accurately, than to have many crude notions, and superficial informations. Learning a chronological table of the most remarkable eras and events, will furnish precise recollections on which the mind

may rest in the study of history. In reading history, a reference to maps, and to biography, will make many particulars more interesting. The same method should be observed with regard to newspapers, which all young people ought to peruse with great attention. Where a family reads sociably, and converse on the different topics, very valuable improvement is derived, and even little children receive great benefit.

EXPERTNESS in calculation is early acquired, if arithmetic be attempted in due time, and there is no branch of instruction of greater utility. We have observed numeration to be the most puzzling of all the simple rules, and we, therefore, generally commenced with addition. We have also found the study to prove less tiresome to children, by bringing them quickly forward to reduction, and giving lessons in each of the preceding rules. Their connexion and dependence is more readily understood in this manner than by continuing long upon the same



section. In beginning addition, the sums should be formed only of the first five figures, and when 6, 7, 8, 9, are added, these highest numbers should be placed at the bottom. To render education less laborious is to increase the happiness of many years in life; and to be the means of preventing mental anguish and bodily suffering, without reducing the amount of useful acquisitions; is worthy of the most sublime philanthropy; especially when we take into the account that severity may debase and harden, but can neither invigorate nor illumine the infantile mind. Although application may perhaps be extorted, and any mode of treatment may not entirely destroy the superiority of a highly gifted and well constituted mind, still, on the average, that exertion which is most free and cheerful, will always be the most successful. Health, vivacity, and candour, must not be risked to hasten proficiency a year or two; and we may safely assert, that violent and depressing measures will not essentially promote that object. Coercion

must fix the volatile, and rouse the indolent; but, by beginning early, a constant and regular attention may become so habitual, as to render harsh compulsion unnecessary.— We are convinced it is highly detrimental to solidity of judgment, and to purity of morals, to emancipate a youth from school at a very early period. He must possess unusual sedateness if he escapes self-conceit in attributing his attainments to superior powers of intellect, and superabundant leisure will lay him open to many temptations. Happy would it be for some tall boys who have completed the ordinary course of classical studies, to be confined to the business of the school-room, in making themselves acquainted with English literature.

RULES of grammar must be learned by rote; but a child will not comprehend them unless he be taught their use in conversation, by frequently asking him the parts of speech in any sentence he may have occasion to express. We must not be angry, though

he cannot, without frequent explanations, enter into our meaning. The spirit of investigation which causes him to hesitate, and to seek for further definitions in every instance, should be encouraged; and by placing the subject before him, in different lights, some ray will at length be elicited from the point where it is most wanted.

It is very injudicious to make needle-work, knitting, and other feminine employments, a sad and burdensome task; for, with the utmost tenderness in the teacher, the little girl has many painful struggles ere she can be expert. We should excite a wish to excel, and be useful, and accustom the child to be busy, whilst at work, to perform it with neatness, and then to take some diversion. Her own little implements of industry should be intrusted to her care, and until she has got the habit of laying them up properly, we should require her to shew us daily how she disposes of them, as it will teach her exactness in matters of more consequence.

WE have already observed how much elder children may be benefited by assisting to teach the younger; and in every branch of education, the eldest of a family may improve himself, and instruct the others, according to Mr. Bell or Mr. Lancaster's excellent method. Let the children be seated according to ages: the eldest gives out a small portion to be repeated audibly by the next, proceeding till they all have recited it; and then another, till the whole be learnt.

LESSONS in reading may be prepared in the same manner; and the parents ought to attend that the little ones be prevented from trifling, and the elder restrained from domineering. \* To allow a right of controul to one child over another, always creates dissension; and there is usually some contrariety where many have the management, which perplexes and frets young children.

THE most experienced and amiable instructor stands much in need of self vigi-

lance; and if at any time our emotions be too keenly uttered, we should at least make a pause to allow the pupil time to collect the ideas which our impatience has dissipated. Attention must be quickened and arrested, and a refractory, presumptuous, or inconsiderate disposition must be checked; but this may be effected without severity. The exhausted feelings of a child who has been often subjected to reproof and punishment are ill calculated for intellectual exercise; and if he remain sensitive under inflictions, his mind loses much of that vigour which enables it to rise above difficulties. We have no doubt that it is a sincere, though very erroneous solicitude for the child's welfare which makes the mother undertake penal discipline in the course of education; but let her make the experiment of conveying the lessons as a benign instructress, and, besides sparing herself the dreadful pain of torturing a creature who can neither resist nor expostulate, she will find in the child more speedy improvement, and many moral ad-

vantages. A mode of influence which excites the best feelings and faculties of the mind, must be attended with superior benefits; and we appeal—not to those whose youthful fervour and anxiety now misleads them—but to the aged and ingenuous matron, who calmly looks back on her own management of beloved children, some of whom, perhaps, did not live to reap the fruits of learning so dearly purchased. We appeal to the experienced mother, whether her own conscience does not acknowledge that penalties and punishments have at times been inflicted, when patient teaching might have had at least equal efficacy. Severity confounding the dim apprehensions of children, is so repulsive to the efforts of genius in embryo, that it operates to weaken and to retard, if not to destroy its powers; and we have wondered that the natural tenderness and justice of maternal hearts did not suggest this plea. A very young pupil may be gradually induced to comprehend, that he and all his fellow-beings rise to higher de-

degrees of happiness in consequence of their own exertions—that on the employment of youthful years depend the pleasures and prosperity of advanced age, and the felicity of an endless state of retribution. He may be led to compare former ignorance and imbecility with the satisfaction and benefit derived from more illumined intellect; and heedlessness, or pertinacity, may be corrected by limited confinement in our presence. This answers every salutary purpose to be expected from chastisement; with the further advantage of disposing the child to all the reflection of which he is capable; and it preserves the parent from many acts of overstrained authority, which, at a future period, might be remembered with compunction. When Pericles, the legislator of Athens, was on his death-bed, his friends believing him insensible to their lamentations, were bewailing their loss, and recounting his great actions—“you forget, said the expiring chief, my greatest boast—it is thus—that I never made a citizen of Athens wear

“mourning.” In the narrow sphere of parental or preceptorial power, what a consoling reflection, that we have never made a child shed a tear which due self-controul should have prevented! The heart feels in its inmost recesses the acknowledgments of a beloved child, departing from this world, and imploring blessings on the parent who never caused one moment’s uneasiness that could have been spared. When our family are all in health around us, we can but faintly conceive the full force of these sentiments; but when any of those dear ties are rent from the agonized bosom, a word, a look, will be recollected with poignant regret, or unspeakable comfort.

VOLATILE, or impetuous children ought to be educated under the immediate superintendence of their parents, to guard them against errors they want sufficient foresight to avoid, and which, if often repeated, would become habitual. This inconsiderateness is a natural misfortune, or the consequence of



mismanagement. In either case it is most pitiable, and parents ought patiently to make the best of it—as they hope for mercy at the tribunal of unerring justice.

At a public school, such a child would be incessantly falling into difficulties, and many have become wretched reprobates from the effects of extreme rigour, whom moderation and instruction might have in time led to amendment. As iron is hardened by repeated strokes, so are the feelings of the human mind fatally blunted by successive pangs—especially if attended by degrading circumstances; and children that are often punished are apt to lose that self-respect which is the source of laudable conduct.

Exquisite sensibility is a great misfortune to the offspring of austere and unrelenting people; under gentle sway, it might expand into superior talents and virtues, but it has seldom coolness, or resolution, to withstand the rude shocks of rigorous treatment. We

believe this may in some measure account for the union of great defects, and very amiable features in the same character, whose mind, like the mechanism of a fine time-piece, has been overstrained and deranged in some of its parts by violence—a mode of management which can hardly do good, and frequently creates a perverse dislike to employment, and to salutary restraints.

#### REWARDS CALCULATED FOR MORAL IMPROVEMENT.

**GRATUITIES**, rewards, and penalties, are powerful, but transient incitements, and temporary ends, must give place to durable advantages. The ultimate tendency of partial inducements is so uncertain, that rewards and penalties ought to be distributed with a very sparing hand. No motive but a desire to do what is right should be often presented to children. These views lose much of their influence when mercenary hopes are inces-

santly fostered; and the grief or displeasure of an anxious mother, or of an attentive father, will but slightly affect a heart pre-occupied by terrors, or rendered callous from frequent struggles to sustain them. People who do not consider that the 'feelings' and sentiments of the mind are the only consistent springs of action, treat infants as automats, whose exterior movements alone are to be regarded; but they should reflect that the means employed to produce these actions become grafted in the disposition; and unless reasonable motives be mingled with restrictions, so as to leave free scope to the mental faculties, the child can have no determinate rule of conduct. Rigid authority takes away all the pleasure of duty, and we seldom perform well, or consistently, any thing which is regarded as a sacrifice to necessity. Many of the bribes, rewards, and penalties, resorted to in the nursery, have given rise to principles radically vicious. It will, perhaps, be very difficult to prevent servants from inflicting punishments, or promising bribes—but

every possible means should be employed to withhold from them a power of which even parents do not always make the best use. Toys, sweetmeats, and trinkets, ought not to be given as tokens of approbation. They should never be mentioned, but as things of course, and in such a manner as to evince the insignificance of such trifles. Children make rapid and decided deductions from the words and actions of those whom they regard with peculiar veneration, and though they are not always to be paid with empty words, they never should be bribed by the promise of trivial and useless rewards. When substantial proofs of satisfaction in their conduct are given, they should consist of books or materials necessary for their different studies and employments; which will tend to associate the ideas of diligence, perseverance, and well-earned applause—nor will it be difficult to dispose them to prefer the good opinion of their parents before all other considerations. To strengthen this influence, the distribution of premiums or penalties

should centre in the father and mother alone, and the nurse should be strictly forbidden to encroach on this privilege. She may express commendation or displeasure, and remind her charge that she must strictly represent their behaviour, which should be frequently inquired into during the course of the day; and, in approving or rebuking, they must be taught that “to be happy they must be good.” The great variety of toys bestowed, and the immoderate pains employed, in amusing infants in the first stage of life, makes the commencement of application to lessons intolerable. A babe must doubtless be entertained; but if we take care to preserve, unvitiated, a taste for simple diversions, a few rattling toys will please him in the first stage of infancy, and when he can understand more rational pastimes, the coloured prints in a little book may delightfully engage his attention. By degrees a systematic arrangement may be adopted; and besides prepossessing him in favour of books, by associating pleasure with learning, he may receive useful

information. We knew a girl who, at four years of age, could give many particulars in the Histories of England and Scotland, which she had learnt in this manner; and a juvenile library afforded more gratification to her, and to her brothers, than a toy-shop supplies to the creatures who break their play-things, or tire of them two or three times in a week. We earnestly wish to see due improvement in this department of juvenile edification and amusement; and though little knowledge accrues from these early lessons — that little is still some acquisition, and may prove of relative importance as antidotes to idleness, and to a restless craving for novelties.

#### SERVANTS, PRIDE, HUMILITY, AND HUMANITY.

ALL parents will recoil at the supposition of allowing inhumanity, injustice, or despotism, to have an ascendant over the minds of their children; but these odious propensities will augment daily, if children be allowed to be-

have with haughtiness, or incivility, towards their inferiors. They should learn that the rich and poor, have all one great Master in Heaven, who is no respecter of persons—that they ought to treat the domestics as they should wish to be treated themselves; and that to these humble friends they have been indebted for their greatest accommodations. If they be ill, and the complaint be not infectious, the little charge should repay their services, by waiting upon them; and, indeed, all young persons ought to know the duties of a sick nurse, so far as to be able to direct the mercenary attendants in the performance of that office. In how many situations are young students, and naval and military officers, almost solely left to the care of each other, and how few females are there who pass through life without occasions to call forth their best ability in behalf of suffering parents, or friends.

A DOMINEERING temper is easily checked in a young child, by shewing him his own

helpless and dependent state; and if we are careful to prevent birth, fortune, beauty, or grandeur, from being talked of in his hearing, as if they conferred merit on the possessor, pride, and vanity, will seldom infest the heart.

**INHUMANITY** is unnatural. It is the consequence of bad example. If children use animals with cruelty, or suffer themselves from harshness—if the nurse, with a loud burst of laughter, shall call upon her charge to observe the quaking limbs and nodding head of the aged mendicant, or the odd gestures of the idiot or madman, he will soon come to deride infirmity, and to scoff at, and tease a creature labouring under the most deplorable calamity, if any thing in his appearance can give rise to ludicrous ideas. A feeling mind can never be disposed to view the wreck of intellect as a source of amusement, and there is nothing more detestible in human nature, than the propensity to augment that misfortune by derision. Children should



be led not only to pity every species of distress, but to make active exertions for its relief. With these notions they will never affect the false and despicably selfish sensibility, which flies from the sight of pain or sorrow.

It is usual for parents to place infants for some years under the government of nurses, and then to insist that all familiarity with inferiors should cease. It would be more rational to have our little ones chiefly under our own influence, and so to gain their confidence, as to leave no room for regretting an intercourse so soon to be terminated. As a baby in nursing will imitate the manners most frequently presented to him, we should afford the models that may be most advantageous—and in preventing a child from passing much time in the nursery, or from going to the servants' hall, or kitchen, reasons must not be assigned, which may insinuate a dislike, a disdain, or a distrust, of the inmates—“it may suffice to mention th

“ risk of accidents by fire, by scalding water,  
 “ knives, &c. besides the interruption to oc-  
 “ cupations in which the servants may be en-  
 “ gaged.” By making infants easy and hap-  
 py, and entering into their amusements, they  
 will have no desire to quit our apartments,  
 where at least they will be safe: and though  
 parents do not always remember that the eye  
 seq the ear of infancy transmit impressions to  
 animind, still less caution is to be expected  
 from here is no acquaintance with refine-  
 burst or taste for low or vicious pleasures  
 to be communicated by uncultivated associates,  
 head of in a superior or servile condition,  
 tures of high parental prudence may for a time  
 come to it, the right of acting independent-  
 tea will discover the latent evil. Let not the  
*inexperienced mother* trust implicitly to ap-  
 pearances. Could she remove the veil which  
 sometimes conceals the true state of her chil-  
 dren when out of her sight, and look forward  
 to remote consequences, she would be struck  
 with horror. This page perhaps may be pe-  
 rused by a matron who can yet recollect the

terrors denounced, to make her exact in repeating the false tale which was to gloss over misdemeanors, or how punished if detection arose from childish simplicity; those only who have known the perplexities of transgression, the agonies of compunction, or have witnessed the painful struggles young people undergo when better instruction, or some blessed incident has awakened a sense of remorse—those only, I say, can know the full value of maternal care which provides against infantine perversion. Much eloquence has been nobly devoted to the cause of African emancipation; and we earnestly hope our humble, but true remonstrances, may excite some of these able advocates to point out in more impressive language, in what manner parents may deliver their beloved pledges from the worst of slavery, the thralldom of fear, and of evil habit. The most exalted station does not place mothers above this duty, as all the immunities pertaining to rank and fortune cannot exempt their offspring from the frailties, follies, and conse-

quent sufferings of our common nature. Even the care of a deputy, the most completely qualified, will not wholly satisfy her who has attentively considered the numerous impediments to the personal and mental security of her children; she will “feel all the parent “rising in her heart” at the bare possibility of the calamities that may originate in bad examples; and she will often engage her infants in “full free converse,” by which, without intention of tale-bearing, they will divulge any impropriety they have seen or heard; and the servants, aware of such artless communications, will endeavour to avoid any word or deed that might be disapproved. Far be it from us to insinuate that such motives influence all domestics. “There are numbers whose sincere goodness and fidelity, established on the immoveable rock of religious principle, would not for worlds mislead their charge; but in an affair of such importance, all possible miscarriages are to be obviated, and it ought to make mothers conscientiously scrupulous in giving to, or receiving recom-

mendations for, persons whose conduct involves the dearest comfort of families. Encouraging kindness and liberal remuneration is due to these humble but beneficial friends; yet implicit confidence can be of no real service to them, and it may be very hurtful to our children. With the best intentions, they may commit fatal errors; nor should a parent, by yielding to the nurse the sole government of her infant, allow herself to be superseded in the dependence and affiance by which he is to be formed for every duty. To wound the feelings of a worthy domestic by distrust, would be cruel and injudicious—but the delicacy with which her proceedings are regulated, and her good sense, will make her willing to submit to restrictions—and the mistress of a family should never relinquish by disuse her right to direct her own affairs, more especially all that concerns the management of her children.

NURSES when engaged ought to be informed, that if they give immediate notice

when an accident happens, no blame will be attached to them; and if they fulfil this condition, we must take care they have no cause for regret. Many infants, who now labour under incurable deformity, might have been saved from that misfortune by timely surgical aid. If we blame children themselves when they are hurt, they will be tempted to conceal an accident till perhaps it is too late for a remedy. They ought to be encouraged to apply to us in every disaster, or distress, which may prove a safeguard for their person and morals; but they cannot have courage to be always open and sincere, if we give them cause to repent of their sincerity.

A SERVANT who would on no account take liberties with her master's property, will not hesitate to bring his child to a house where he may be exposed to contagious disease; and in towns, numberless infant lives have been lost by this temerity. Many afflicting events and accidents might be avoided, by an agreement of families in the same street to

depute two or three members by turns to accompany the children in their walks, and in going to, and from school; and a league of affection and duty for the safety of human beings would be at least more wise and honourable than an association for the preservation of game, or for any other intention of pleasure or interest.

COMMISERATION and bounty are virtues of the earliest growth—but to give these feelings a right direction, they must be exercised in good deeds, which require some effort. Children may be taught to take care of shoes, and suits of clothes, that when they are past their use they may relieve with them the wants of poor little boys and girls, who have only such charitable supplies to defend them from the cold. Or little masters and misses may give up gratifications and amusements for the sake of dedicating to this purpose the money which these indulgencies might have required, and it will have a much better

effect on their character than large pecuniary gifts obtained from parental liberality, and distributed without trouble or reflection.

IMMODERATE puerile fondness for the lower creation is to be discouraged; but neglect, or mal-treatment must be seriously reprov'd; and if often repeated, the favourite animal should be transferred to the care of a more humane and considerate child.

THE enormity of killing, or hurting the most despicable reptile, or of robbing bird's nests, and of enslaving the free tenants of the air, should be reprehended in the most affecting strain; but a bird rendered helpless by captivity may be accepted, and tenderly cared for. Sights of pain and horror—the agonies of dissolution in animals that are deprived of life for our subsistence, or the unrelenting severity with which they are sometimes trained for our amusement, if rendered familiar to children, will certainly blunt the



amiable sensibility of their nature, and ought to be withheld from their observation.

LOQUACITY, TACITURNITY, CONFIDENCE,  
AND BASHFULNESS.

To counteract all extremes ought to be one great object of education, and as taciturnity is a very obstinate defect, it requires to be opposed in its first symptoms. Loquacity may be moderated by paying no attention to the prattling child; but to enable dullness to express ideas, and to prevail over diffidence, to violate itself, demands very judicious, unremitting, and tender management. We must begin by tracing the origin of the infirmity, and if it seems to proceed from bashfulness, the remedy may be found in setting the child at ease, and encouraging him to rely upon his own judgment. We must talk to him in a free and kind manner; and if he makes no reply, tell him what should be said, mildly urging him to repeat the words. He

should likewise be frequently introduced into the company of intimate acquaintances, who will take the friendly trouble of joining in our endeavours. He must gradually mix with larger circles, for bashfulness can only be cured by frequent intercourse with strangers.

If there be any external impediment to speech, professional advice should be obtained without delay; for in such cases surgical operations generally succeed best in infancy; and when the child attempts to use the organs of articulation, he should be directed to speak a few words deliberately, and to increase the number and quickness of utterance by degrees, according to the facility he attains from frequent practice. Some simple and diverting poetical lines committed to memory, and recited often with care and attention, will essentially promote his improvement.

**EXCESSIVE diffidence is often mistaken for**

an indication of mental weakness; but even considerable deficiency may be remedied by timely care. It will be necessary to engage the child in frequent conversation, to discover in what respect his intellect, is disordered, or feeble; and the rest of the family ought to be strictly prohibited from laughing at his absurdities, which would quite discourage a shy temper, or excite a rattling young creature to greater volubility.

IF a child has so much sense as to be silent, great hope of improvement may be entertained, unless his manners betray downright idiotism—but at all events, a mother will be acquitted by her own conscience if she employ every means to arrange and expand his ideas. Too rapid diffusion might, however, involve them in obscurity. We must, for some time, talk to him only on the most common topics, correcting misapprehensions, supplying necessary information, and often recapitulating the same subject. This is a melancholy duty, but a very small

share of success will repay the trouble, and we have known strong symptoms of imbecility so far removed by maternal care, as to render the child respectable and amiable, though not brilliant in society.

WE lament to say we have also known a few instances in others, whose defects in early age were not more apparent than those; but by negligence, or rebukes and punishments for silliness, at times too keenly felt, and for improprieties which, without assistance, they were unable to rectify—with the deepest commiseration, we have beheld the blameless unfortunate youth sinking into a total deprivation of mental energy. In the first example, the faculties were developed and invigorated by fostering affection; in the latter, unaided by a more efficient power to draw forth and to sustain them, every day produced some cause to hasten their decay.

DEFECTIVE intellect is sometimes accompanied by irrational merriment, restlessness,

and loquacity; and if this is attended to in the first, or second year, it may be in a great measure restrained. Severity will introduce low arts, but the invariable influence of a kind, patient, and attentive director, by the mere mechanical force of habit, will improve the behaviour. The follies of such a child should be treated with uniform gravity: to laugh, or even to deride him, would enflame him to further extravagances; but a sorrowful rebuke will hardly fail to abate his mirth; and even younger brothers and sisters may be taught to follow this method. It is almost superfluous to add, that in these circumstances, mothers may perceive how much depends on their close inspection during the years of infancy.

WE are apt to err greatly in regard to reserved children, who are often little attended to, whilst the bold and vivacious, whose exuberant flow of spirits might be the better of some abatement, are treated with caresses and smiles of approbation.

Those who are too delicate to push themselves forward, ought to be brought into that notice which would convert bashfulness into graceful modesty. The arrogance of a confident child must be repressed by cold reserve, nor should genius, sprightliness, humour, or any talent, induce us to give way to a presumptuous or volatile disposition.

THE missile shafts of ridicule are sometimes successfully aimed against these enemies to propriety, which arise from vanity, egotism, and affectation: but they must be directed by a gentle yet steady hand. Derision will exasperate and harden, rather than correct mistakes, unless it be softened by delicacy, and it is always improperly applied against awkwardness, or shyness, as it only adds to the painful sensibility from which these foibles proceed.

Young people ought to be encouraged to unrestrained conversation with their parents: if denied this liberty, and only used to chatter

with companions of their own age, they cannot have just notions of colloquial intercourse, and will be defective in the style of their language, or in modesty, freedom, or discretion; all of which may be acquired by a habit of weighing their own opinions, and communicating them to those who have the kindness and judgment to explain what is right. By talking with the instructors, who live only to promote their advantage, they will learn to contribute their share of the entertainment without incroaching on others, or betraying the disgust, which an unpleasant companion may excite.—they will learn to detest detraction or unqualified praise, and to state every circumstance they mention in a fair, temperate, and perspicuous manner.

It is of great consequence to attain that self-dependence which may set them at ease with their superiors, as without a high sense of honour and propriety, bashfulness will drive a youth to take refuge in low company, in which alone he feels self-possession, and

cheerfulness; and with the finest talents, accomplishments, and qualities, the too diffident young man will not be engaging; and he will lose the opportunity when a seasonable and modest display of ability might lead him to fame and fortune.

**THE** successful labours of Mr. Braidwood, Mr. Joseph Watson, the Abbé L'Epee, and others, have proved beyond question, that the deaf and dumb are susceptible of instruction; but the expense precludes numbers from receiving it at the public institution. But much may be done at home by patient attention. As soon as it is ascertained that an infant wants the sense of hearing, his mother should provide herself with large printing types and ink; and on pieces of white stiff pasteboard, let her impress the names of the most familiar objects that consist of few letters, increasing the vocabulary, and taking longer words as the infant improves. She cannot begin too early to call his attention to these lessons. The habit of looking at them



and observing their reference to the article pointed out, is of vast advantage in the exercise of intellect; and as communications are made only by the eye, or the touch, the pupil's concentrated attention will soon prove effectual. They who wish to enter deeply into this subject under the guidance of an able professor, may consult Mr. Joseph Watson's work, or the Abbé L'Epee on "the method of educating the deaf and dumb;" but, to assist a plain understanding, we shall lay down some easy rules. We believe this to be the first attempt to impart the faculty of speech to young infants who are deprived of aid from the ear; but we are assured of its practicability: and when the organs are most flexible, their use undoubtedly may, most readily be acquired. Suppose we wish the child to read "eye," the word is to be shewn to him, directing his finger to his eye, or our own, and trying to make him imitate the motion of our lips in pronouncing it. When he is able to pick out the card on which eye is printed, we are to shew him the letters E Y E separately,

and placing them together, to cause him to comprehend that they are the same with the word he was accustomed to see. When he has learnt a few words, they are to be shewn to him repeatedly every day in the manner which we have described, and the same effort to articulate is to be excited. When he seems to know them in separate letters, the cards are to be shuffled, and, pointing to the eye, the ear, the nose, a bed, a box, &c. &c. we are to ask him to shew the corresponding name, and to pronounce each as they occur. The printed verbs are to be explained also in separate letters, and shewing him the action they imply, as to eat, *by eating*; to drink, *by drinking*; to sit, *by sitting*; &c. “Give me your hand” is to be explained by repeating it with a pause between each word, exciting the infant to express them after us, and shewing him to extend his hand.

EVERY action must be illustrated in the same manner, and he must be taught to pronounce all the syllables addressed to him.

His nurse should almost incessantly induce him to articulate words. If this be done in a playful and cheerful manner, it will afford both amusement and instruction, and promote the effect of those lessons in reading, daily given by his mother at short intervals.'

As soon as he is able to use his limbs, he should receive lessons in dancing, to vary his occupations; and a slate and pencil should be given him, with a copy to teach him to form the letters. The science of numbers may be taught him in the manner by which he learnt to know the names of different articles; but when he is required to say one, he must have one counter presented to him, when he is to pronounce two, two counters, and so on; and he may at the same time learn that the corresponding figures traced on his slate are to express the same quantities. To diversify his amusements, drawing should be taught him. Other tasks added to these already mentioned, should very soon be the employment of girls—and either sex, by these early cares,

will be prepared for a public education; besides, that they prevent much of the ill temper by which deaf and dumb children distress their parents, for want of having their attention agreeably engaged.

#### COURAGE, FORTITUDE, AND CHEERFULNESS.

**A** SOUND imagination is a blessing next in degree to a clear conscience and a healthy constitution, and when parents discover puerile credulity, they ought to spare no pains in eradicating all belief in supernatural agency; but it would be more effectual and easy to prevent children from hearing of ghosts and witches, for, unless gifted with superlative strength of mind, it is scarce possible for them wholly to emerge from the cloud of superstitious prejudice instilled into them with the first consciousness of dangers. When a child has had the misfortune to be enslaved by these terrors, to combat them by authority under any form can be of little use, as con-

straint has no power over the mind, though it may enforce external performances. Good humoured derision may expose the absurdity of fears so ridiculous and irrational, and induce the child to voluntary endeavours to banish them; but a lively sense of the divine omnipresence, and trust in Almighty goodness, is the only effectual remedy for a weakness which often prevails over the convictions of reason. “The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?” No exhortation or argument can inspire confidence and peace, compared with the sentiments conveyed by these words, and the susceptibility of a youthful heart is peculiarly fitted to feel comfort in the belief that neither solitude nor darkness are excluded from the presence and protection of the great Being “whose mercies are over all his works.”

A YOUTH who has been preserved from the enervating apprehension of injury either from goblins or severe inflictions—who has learn-

ed to govern, not to disguise his feelings—who has always dared to appear *such as he really is*—who has imbibed an independent and animated sense of honour, will never fail in manly intrepidity.

DISHONOUR will appear to him far more terrible than death; and if he has been taught that death itself is the passport to endless glory, his valour will be sustained by the clearest dictates of reason. He may be prevented from mistaking a quarrelsome temper for personal courage, by convincing him, that it is the part of a bully to seek rencounters, because he knows himself to be equal to the combat; and that it is a mean and dastardly spirit which provokes contention from a consciousness of superior bodily strength.

EQUESTRIAN attempts, the use of fire-arms, or swimming, are seldom attended with danger, except in clandestine enterprises. Let the parent, the tutor, or the friend, give good humoured liberty and attendance, and youth-

ful eagerness to brave dangers may be moderately and cautiously indulged.

THE frequency of accidents in maritime excursions induces us to suggest that all children should be informed that the sinking of the body in water is occasioned by raising the arms. If they shall be kept down, and constantly moved, the head will rise above the surface, and if the motion of walking is imitated by the legs, the shoulders will be elevated beyond the level of the fluid.

BOYISH pugilism is but animal instinct, bordering on brutality—true valour is intellectual, and every difficulty in education ought to be represented as an opportunity to exercise it. Strenuous efforts in any laborious performance will be more cheerfully endured when considered as the legitimate results of a quality so dearly prized by all boys in themselves and others. Artificial hardships, which some fanciful parents have invented, to prove and to confirm resolution,

we should hold in abhorrence, as a deviation from the straight path of integrity; besides, when children have once detected their rulers in sporting with their feelings, there is an end to all confidence. They ought, however, to be taught, that natural evils arising from the visitations of Providence are to be improved as occasions for exercising their strength of mind; and in the form of self-possession and passive fortitude, this heroism is equally appropriate to the feminine character. Both sexes ought to learn, even in infancy, to endure inconvenience, disappointment, losses, sickness, pain, or any ill, without impatient complaints, or seeking commiseration, further than to obtain the requisite aid in using means to remove the cause; and when accidents happen, the parent or nurse ought not to betray emotion, or to offer fond condolence, which generally tempts the little creature to practise upon our feelings, and to fancy himself a personage of great importance. Assistance should always be immediately and cheerfully afforded; but



if endeavours for their relief be beset usually successful, they must be exhorted mentally, by stress without mean importunity for recurring pity. Expressions of extraordinary sympathy generally increase this weakness—we should rather assure them, that though we feel for their sufferings, and would be happy to afford any alleviation, there are children who undergo much more without a murmur.

A CHILD who has symptoms of illness, must be cared for without delay; but it will be necessary to conceal our alarm or solicitude. Apprehension is powerful, and the fatuity of parental fondness sometimes makes children imagine themselves much worse than they really are, which must certainly impede the progress of their recovery.

THOUGH unerring wisdom has denied to us the power of preventing many evils, the means of mitigating our children's suffering is placed within our reach. The energetic breast of fortitude will be sufficient for its

we should hold ~~r~~ deliverance, when inert or from the ~~stre~~ minds are bereft of all resource. when ~~ch~~ould teach our pupils that supine and in ~~st~~ress acquiescence is neither wise nor amiable: that it is incumbent on them to employ all lawful means to repair disasters, and to better their condition; but having discharged that ~~du~~ty, to submit to the will of God, who knows best our true advantage.

THERE is a correct line between cheerfulness, the sun-beam of the soul, which throws on all objects and events the most favourable aspect, and between the effervescence of giddy mirth, incapable of consistency or caution. Cheerfulness is so essential to the enjoyment of life, that a saturnine complexion of mind ought to be carefully counteracted. A dull child, besides being furnished with a gay and active nurse, should have lively companions; and his parents, treating him with great gentleness, should encourage him to join in the playful gambols which they may invent. When he ceases to be an in-

fant, artificial amusements must be gradually withdrawn, as they would be detrimental, by giving a habit of dependence on the recurrence of incidents to exhilarate his spirits. Languor is often the consequence of idleness, or of ill arranged employment. When attention seems exhausted by one study, the change to another will rouse the mind; and if that does not succeed, active exertions must be allowed. Dancing and fencing are ready resources for boys, and domestic duties supply an agreeable diversity of feminine occupation.

YOUNG people who have been born to a small share of fortune's favours, may be reconciled to their lot, by learning to estimate the advantages of escaping the heavy taxes imposed on her minions. The temperate board is an antidote against many excruciating maladies; and the girl who adjusts her own simple toilet, in being denied the gaudy trappings of magnificence, is more at ease

than the tyranny of fashion, harassed by unfaithful, insolent, or awkward attendants. Let children be so instructed, as deeply to consider that happiness has its seat in the mind, and depends almost entirely upon themselves. They should be often reminded that those who trust in God, and are convinced he orders all for the best, and who are conscious of humble, but sincere endeavours to perform their duty, may be sick or sorrowful, but they cannot be unhappy; and the brightest zenith of prosperity may be clouded by unruly passions. In giving lessons of fortitude, the situation of the pupil must be considered; and whatever trials seem most incident to their journey through this vale of tears, must be intimated in such a manner as may prepare the child to act with inflexible rectitude.

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#### TOYS AND RECREATIONS.

THE poisonous ingredients in painted toys should be frequently mentioned in newspapers and popular works, that the knowledge

may descend to the poorer classes. At a fair, the honest labourer spends part of his hard earnings to purchase a gaudy doll, or glaring rattle, little aware that these gifts of fondness may prove injurious; but they are far more pernicious to the poor man's child than to the descendant of a wealthy house. The latter has a coral and splendid bells to engage his attention, and a constant attendant to prevent him from daubing his clothes with paint; but the former has the toy suspended to his waist, and frequently no amusement but what he derives from it. Coral is unfit for rubbing the gums of a child, and we have even heard of great injury occasioned by its being broken, and not adverted to till the mouth has been cut by the sharp fragment. A piece of liquorice root, or even a piece of light wood, well polished, in the usual shape given to coral for a gum stick, is perfectly safe, and lighter for the hand of a babe than coral.

A FEW simple articles. capable of various

combinations might afford entertainment to children unalloyed by grief for the destruction of a pretty play-thing. Small pieces of the lightest wood, in the shape of bricks, with mattocks, hand-barrows, &c. of the same materials, are fit recreation within or out of doors, and building is an amusement of which children are not apt to tire.

Wood cut into the form of bricks is preferable to any ponderous material, in case of slipping on the little architect's feet. This was our opinion and practice long before Miss Edgeworth's *excellent* treatise was published. Several coincidences with her sentiments, and with those of other celebrated writers, evince how invariably the same lights are presented to all who consult nature and common sense, whatever disparity there may be betwixt their abilities.

WHERE we have borrowed from these luminaries, it is marked by a quotation, in so much as memory has served us, and we are

far from presuming to compare our humble labours to theirs, in which amusing, ingenious, and beautiful decoration are calculated for the meridian of high life and cultivated intellect. To the wreath appropriated to literary merits we make no pretension, but a simple book of receipts, directing the proportion and mixture of ingredients for domestic use, is as serviceable in its own place, as the profound researches of the philosopher to analyze productions of various climates. Where no extraneous ornament distracts her attention, the housewife will at once comprehend the process she has to conduct; and the guardian of infancy will find here no more than plain maxims that may assist, but cannot perplex her understanding.

WHEN the weather permits, the open air is most conducive to health and cheerfulness; and if the children can have an inclosure within view of their mother's window, it will be attended with many good effects. The ground should be cleared from stones, stumps

of underwood, or whatever might lacerate in case of a fall. Boys have great pleasure in wrestling, and if care is taken to separate them on the first appearance of irritation, their desire for athletic combats will constrain them to command of temper, an attainment which ought to be cherished by precept, example, and habit. Love of play should not be imperiously discouraged. "The same eagerness of pursuit, under proper management, may be converted into ardour for learning and useful activity." Playing at hand-ball, and bounding with the skipping-rope, are diversions of first-rate excellence when young people are confined to the house; and girls may also be taught to use them, in a manner that confers a graceful agility very useful in dancing. Walking nimbly, and running on tiptoe with the knees straight, and the whole body, head, and limbs, in easy positions, is likewise a good introduction for the pupils of Terpsichore.

- THESE are the only amusements in which



the parent or governess should assume the direction; and though the nurse may participate, she ought not to be the inventor of the children's plays. If elder people undertake it, the children will grow listless, or insatiable for variety. So far as may consist with due regard to their safety and necessities, it is good for them to be thrown on their own resources, and to learn that it is contemptible helplessness to depend on others, when they are able to serve themselves.

END OF VOL. I.



SKETCHES  
OF  
INTELLECTUAL EDUCATION,  
AND  
HINTS ON DOMESTIC ECONOMY,  
WITH AN  
APPENDIX,  
Containing  
THE NURSERY REFORMER,  
AND  
*A FRAGMENT.*

BY MRS. GRANT, LATE OF DUTHEL.

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SECOND EDITION.

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VOL. II.

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..... The attentive mind,  
By this harmonious action on her powers,  
Becomes herself harmonious.

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*LONDON:*

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR,

*By John Bell, Proprietor of the Weekly Messenger.*

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1814.



# INTELLECTUAL EDUCATION.

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GOOD MANNERS AND COMPANY.

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MANY errors pointed out here are little known in the elevated and middle ranks of society; but if we descend a degree, we shall find mistakes originating from the sacrifice of remote and permanent advantages to present convenience. To the numerous, respectable, and worthy classes who are too much engrossed in the active performance of duties to spare time for the perusal of voluminous and abstracted works, our slight notices are peculiarly dedicated; and we would beg leave to call their attention to the

consequences of excluding their little ones from social parties. Many of the accidents that have plunged families into depths of irretrievable sorrow, have taken place when the nurses were called away by unusual preparations and attendance, or seizing the opportunity of their mistress being engaged, by attending to their own business or amusements, have left the poor infants free from restraint, to rush into danger.

CHILDREN may be fitted, by early attention, to appear in company without discredit to their education, by vulgar, awkward, or rude behaviour. Let them be daily taken to table, taught all due observances to their parents, and to each other, and they will be quiet in the parlour or drawing-room, and give no disturbance, though admitted to a side-table. Young people who have at all times been accustomed to take a kind interest in each other's conduct, will be able in their mother's sight to manage the little ones; and the hints

they give, not as arrogated superiority, but with conciliating mildness, will prevent many omissions or offences, though in the nursery such rules might be quite forgotten in unbounded merriment.

WERE no other advantage to accrue but exemption from the pains and penalties of conscious deficiency, the forms of politeness should be made familiar at a very early age, by seeing and conversing with strangers. They who have been denied that benefit in childhood, are absolutely unhappy when they must exhibit themselves before a numerous assemblage of new faces. They are alarmed and distressed when spoken to, or obliged to make the most common movement; and it is ten to one but some absurdity puts their friends out of countenance. Yet so mighty is the power of custom, that they who mingle frequently with their fellow-creatures, however superior in station, age, or ability, are as little affected by their

presence, as by the daily sight of a gallery of portraits. But we are not to rest in a mere mechanical set of formalities, or ceremonies. A young person may be well bred, and neither attractive nor interesting; amenity of manners to be really engaging, must proceed from candour and sweetness of disposition; from sensibility and passions so poised and regulated as to make all due allowance for the rights of others; for without these emanations of mind, exterior polish has no powerful charm. Selfish, vain, or irascible emotions cannot be wholly disguised by the glare of fashionable graces; and where there is a constant effort to conceal bad passions, that discriminating acuteness which, at one glance, comprehends the exact point of respect, or condescension, will be a tardy acquisition. The young person who desires no more attention than he can justly claim, and who has a well-grounded self-approbation, will take his place in company with modest, but dignified propriety, equally remote from pre-



sumption or fawning—but the ungoverned spirit, appearing through the varnish of artificial suavity, will often excite disgust and displeasure.

THOUGH conversation not very edifying may take place in the drawing-room, the same perversion haunts the nursery, with this addition, that the parent does not hear, and cannot therefore counteract it.

ALL who address themselves to youth should conscientiously abstain from exciting any idea that ought not to influence the subsequent conduct. This infallible rule would prevent encomiums on the beauty, sprightliness, or elegance of a little creature who, perhaps, till that ill-fated moment, had been carefully preserved from temptations which might lead to self-conceit. Gentlemen also, from true humanity, should refrain from making a feigned love to pretty little puppets, to trifle away a short space of time, but

which leaves traces in the active imagination sadly unfavourable to circumspection in advancing years. Mothers cannot always prevent these follies, but they must be very guarded with respect to their own intimations, lest they should enkindle a desire for finery and for admiration, or substitute the impulse of passion for the guidance of reason. When motives perfective of virtue cannot be supplied, we must at least give such as do not oppose her interests; but to promise an admirer, a husband, a fine trinket, or fruit, or sweetmeats, as the reward of good conduct, is to sink all the better feelings in frivolity.

#### ILL CONSEQUENCES OF AUSTERITY AND

#### RIGOUR.

**I**NDEPENDENCE of mind is a quality of the highest and most just repute among man-

kind; and it is indeed the source, the guardian, and the stay of veracity, of vigour, of consistency, and of every grace that can elevate sentiment or sustain exertion. This erect principle, attempered with modesty in early years, is a sure presage of wisdom and goodness throughout life. A discerning eye will soon distinguish between it, and the effrontery of a bold ill-tempered child, who may be quite unconcerned in his address, though devoid of that amiable stability which is founded on a clear perception of the line of duty, and a steady purpose in pursuing it. But nobleness of spirit is not to be expected when infancy has been fettered and crushed by severe treatment, which invariably produces servile and equivocal conduct. According to the code of nursery laws, to give trouble is the greatest of crimes, and the next in turpitude is to falsify or impose. Yet this same inflexible assertor of truth governs her charge by innumerable ill-disguised deceptions, which he soon suspects, finds out, and will

certainly try to imitate and countermine. Nor will repeated punishments outweigh the influence of example. No impression short of moral principles can establish integrity; and fear is destructive of that self-determined rectitude which ought to be nurtured with the most anxious care. It is unreasonable to look for pure and generous motives whilst all strength of mind is spent in opposing endurance to what, in the sufferer's opinion at least, is cruelty; and the mind wound up to high resentment feels more distress than compunction.

WE have never seen an infant lavishing caresses on his nurse, particularly attentive to keep his clothes clean, and astonishingly well bred, but it has recalled feelings with which we have beheld the unnatural performances of animals trained to divert the thoughtless populace.

WHEN the course of discipline which led

to these antic evolutions is remembered, pity and horror take place of admiration. "What!" will a fine lady exclaim, "shall the nurse allow my boy to ramble, and soil, and tear his dress? Am I to be shocked by his savage, or sheepish awkwardness? He fawns upon his nurse, because she loves him dearly, and is very good." We would entreat her to believe a person who can have no interest in deceiving her, that the simplicity of little ones who have been treated with gentleness, and never taught to assume, or to hide any feeling, will not admit of very strong expression of fondness, unless during the transient effusion of joy, or thankfulness for some gratification. If a nurse, by mild authority, has worked upon her charge to be prematurely careful and polite, he will not be so familiar as almost to stifle her with embraces. When a child behaves so, he is acting a part, which has been painfully imposed on him, and he supports it through terror. Were the evil to end here, it might be tolerable, though

we think it highly criminal in a mother to permit her child to undergo the least hardship which she can prevent; but how enormous is the barbarity and the guilt when we add to present discomfort its consequences in giving habits of dissimulation. A peaceful mind is favourable to ingenuousness, to every moral excellence, and to bodily health; and health is necessary to proficiency in the acquirements conferred by education—but personal distress, and mental perturbation, are incapable of producing any durable advantage; and prudence, not less urgently than humanity, demands the abolition of all violent measures.

EVEN faithful and affectionate domestics may treat children harshly. They were themselves instructed in these methods, and Solomon hath said, “*he that spareth the rod hateth the child.*” To this axiom many nursery maids pay the most strict obedience, and no argument can convince them that they

can exceed in these proofs of regard. Nothing will prevent it but having the nursery so near as that sounds transmitted from thence shall reach the auditory nerves of their natural protectors.

A LADY of high rank and distinguished talents, now living, could bear testimony of her own sufferings, during six years, from a servant whose respectable character was never called in question, but her zeal to save herself trouble, by making the young ladies *faultless*, induced her to inflict severe correction when sent out with them to walk, and terror prevented them from complaining until it was accidentally divulged: nor is this a singular instance. The mother, or the faithful governess, must be very vigilant to prevent oppression or deception, both of which will always augment the child's ill-temper, cunning, or imbecility. When the temper is soured by harsh treatment, and the heart perplexed by discovering or sus-

pecting that the attendant governs by artifice, very fatal perversion must ensue. We hope few mothers will feel this censure applicable to their own management; if so, they have great cause for repentance, because they have been teaching the most degrading of vices to their offspring. Let her who is conscious she has cheated, or rather attempted to cheat her children into obedience, resolve to do so no more. She may assure herself that they will see through her devices: and unless she desists, she will render them insincere, and perhaps dishonest. There is no need of *mummery* in the treatment of infants, and it never succeeds. We may engage their own feelings, and by reason strive to correct foibles, and incline them to self-denials as free agents, by shewing them that it is all for their own advantage. A peremptory command may be expressed without passion, and we may suddenly check a dangerous attempt without violence. It is very pernicious to view all foibles and of-



fences in the worst light, or to be continually chiding. Trivial faults are to be noticed merely by advising the child to beware of the "diminutive chains of habit;" and be it remembered, that moderation and delicacy are peculiarly necessary in the treatment of the most richly-gifted minds. The susceptibility which, under mild restraints and uniform vigilance, will strongly "attach itself to all that is lovely and laudable," is also prone to ardent or giddy excesses on the one hand, and cannot bear discouraging restrictions on the other. We must, therefore, take care, when we set ourselves to suppress one evil, not to give rise to another, by introducing slavish dread, and bringing integrity to a test too severe; that we do not deprive the timid of the little energy they possess, or urge the bold to indifference, perhaps to desperation, by rendering them insensible to reproach, an extreme which has often made rogues and dunce when the misjudging instructor was full of fiery zeal for morality and erudi-

tion. Like all the grown-up sons and daughters of Adam, those in early life are the sport of many irregular desires, which they must be aided to resist and to subdue; but with these cojent injunctions, we must mingle the superior force of reason, even in infancy, not only to give a habit of conscientious obedience to the "voice within," but as the sense of right and wrong, and the power of voluntary self-denial will be strengthened by daily exercise.

EVEN where the impulse of fear is most decisive, it is but momentary; for as it implants no durable conviction, and no moral principle, the subjects of terror run into licentiousness whenever their awful superior is absent. It is even proverbial that children who have been accustomed to harsh treatment, when absent from their parents, are "like birds out of a cage;" whilst those who have never been compelled to renounce, or to disguise their sentiments, have no propen-

sity to disingenuous or inconsistent behaviour. A confession wrung from the heart of a father on being informed that one of his daughters had made a marriage below the dignity of her family, has been often recollected by us with a firm resolution to 'shun' his error—“ This is the consequence of my  
 “ own severity, and I may expect all my  
 “ girls to deceive me—though they have  
 “ been always under my roof, they are strangers to me—I know only their faces—for  
 “ they could hardly speak plain when stern  
 “ austerity filled their little bosoms with  
 “ fear, and taught them to hide every wish  
 “ from their mother and me. Even now,  
 “ when we would induce them to be free  
 “ with us, they cannot wholly overcome  
 “ early impressions, and I believe they appear to us, and to others, in very different  
 “ characters.”

WHEN young creatures are driven to crafty concealments, the foundation of every virtue

must be sapped and destroyed. The natural abhorrence of blame and dread of punishment being very powerful in the mind of a child, we must take special care not to oppose these irresistible feelings to the principles of veracity. Truth is not only the basis of all good qualities, but the shield from inconveniencies and dangers. Where there is nothing to hide, nothing to find out, we escape from innumerable faults and inquietudes in domestic life: and the affiance and frankness of young people who are on easy terms with their parents, disposing them to seek advice in every difficulty, their errors are repaired before they can create trouble to themselves or others. How much misery do the children of austere persons incur by devices to put off the evil hour, when their entanglements must be divulged to their rigid judges! The habitual cunning ingrafted on their disposition by these subterfuges is in itself a dire misfortune, which can only be obviated by removing the influence of terrors.

ANOTHER great disadvantage attending severity is, that parents involuntarily trust to the effects of chastisements, and are deficient in that uniform superintendence and mild restraint which alone can form the habits of infancy: so that upon the whole, children who are at times subjected to violence, obtain more pernicious indulgences, and take more dangerous liberties than those who are moderately curbed and gently instructed. The keen temper that transports to harsh extremes is often accompanied by intense affections; and when anger has subsided, the father or mother is sorry for having gone so far: too much licence succeeds, till another fault, originating, perhaps, in parental negligence, draws upon the child another unprofitable punishment. Many excellent characters have been formed under severe discipline both at home and at school; but minds happily constituted will overcome every obstacle unless exposed to the most depraved example, and their own native powers, at a fu-

ture period, will enable them to rectify the errors of education: but why thus invade the peace, and hazard the integrity of a child, when every valuable end may be accomplished by kind and encouraging treatment. These means, corroborated by assiduous instruction, are infallible; but rules of conduct, or studies enforced by the rod, often prove abortive: for the spirit of contradiction, so prevalent in children who have been long irritated by harsh controul, induces them to seize the first opportunity to act in opposition, regardless of consequences.

WE have heard parents defend their rigorous management as tending to fortify the spirit against unavoidable trials through life; but inspired wisdom, common sense, and common honesty forbid us to do evil that good may result from it. The hardness of a heart accustomed to rough treatment can never sustain other sufferings with resolution so firm, or resignation so sincere, as religious fortitude be-

stows. Where the Most High sees fit to make trial of the patience of his creatures, we know, that “from seeming evil he is still educing “good,” but we are not to arrogate to ourselves these “attributes divine;” we are humbly to follow, but never to assume, the lead in any dispensation of Providence. Our plain path of duty is to make all under our influence as happy as may be compatible with the regulation of their propensities, and the improvement of their time; still strengthening them to bear all vicissitudes by devout confidence and entire submission to unerring goodness.

PENALTIES CALCULATED FOR PERMANENT  
EFFECTS.

It is a lamentable consequence of severe treatment, that the spirit gains force to out-brave sufferings, and past inflictions appear,

ing little regarded, they are again and again augmented. Depriving a child of an hour of amusement, of a walk, or a visit, when represented as a disgrace, will have more permanent efficacy than agitating and inflaming violence, hardly more degrading to the subject than to the agent. A little reflection upon our own early feelings will assist us in influencing those of our children, and lead us to make allowances for puerile incapacity. *We* have never been able to make ourselves just such as we wish to be, and shall we require an infant to surpass us in exertion and self-command? We cannot subdue our passions, or fortify ourselves against weaknesses instantly, nor should we expect a child to be speedily successful, however willing to refrain, or to act according to our requisitions. By demanding too much, we shall disgust or discourage him from performing what he might find practicable under more cheering influence. Rigorous treatment not only creates aversion to study, but also to persons



for whom our love, or respect, might induce strong incitements to laudable conduct; and unless a child be truly sorry for doing amiss, the intention of punishment is defeated. We do not always sufficiently distinguish between the anguish of bodily suffering and heartfelt compunction; nor is it invariably considered, that to compel children to express that penitence which they do not feel, may utterly annihilate the principle of veracity—conviction can never be extorted, and the dread of reiterated punishment will not deter the hardy, or artful youth, from giving way to corrupt inclinations, when the means are presented. Fear is a passion generally at variance with moral sentiments, or too overwhelming to be resisted by them, and it prompts children not so much to avoid faults, as to elude detection, by bare subterfuges, that still more incurably deprave the heart. Blessed be God, the savage and pernicious frequency of chastisement has given way to more rational management in the

refined and enlightened classes of society: but as it still prevails in the nursery, we feel ourselves called upon, not only by humanity, but by unfeigned earnestness in the cause of genuine morality, to apprise the *inexperienced mother* of the fatal consequences that may ensue from making fear the ruling principle of conduct. When debasing force shall be exchanged for maternal attention, and the use of the rod forbidden in the government of infants, we may then hail the wide empire of truth, candour, and innate dignity. Much of the ill temper, duplicity, and abject meanness that disgusts us in the world, has become habitual through irritation and fear, before the mind could distinguish good from evil. .

Just as these pages were ready for the press we met with Mr. Knox's Essays, and by the advice of a literary correspondent, we insert the following extract from the 31st page of the 3d volume, as a proof that not only feminine weakness, but the masculine

wisdom of a very superior mind condemns severity. “ The spirits under benign management contract a milkiness, and learn to flow cheerily in their smooth and yielding channels; while, on the contrary, if the young mind is teased, fretted, or neglected, the passages of the spirits become rugged, abrupt, exasperated; and the whole nervous system seems to acquire an excessive irritability. The ill treatment of children makes them not only wretched at the time, but wretched for life; tearing the fine texture of their nerves, and roughening, by example, and by some secret and internal influence, the very constitution of their tempers.”

BUT though harsh usage is inimical to sweetness and ingenuousness of disposition, to self-respect, and to every amiable quality, the mischiefs arising from excessive licence are not less formidable. Every fault and foible must be watchfully discovered, repressed, and counteracted. Fond affection

seeks to ascertain the very first symptoms of bodily disease, and leaves no means untried to retard its progress, and to expel every taint from the constitution. Diseases of the mind require to be traced out with equal vigilance, and means to cure them must be resorted to with the same persevering solicitude. The tyranny of any passion unfits the mind for enjoyment, as certainly as the paroxysms of an inflammatory distemper disable the body from gay activity, or comfortable rest. We must, therefore, spare no pains to convince our pupil that amendment is necessary to his happiness, and when we can excite his voluntary efforts, reformation will certainly be accomplished. To overcome pertinacity by betraying angry vehemence, is a fruitless attempt, as the child's pride is excited to resistance; but by calmly telling him that he shall have time to reflect on the injury done to himself, and by keeping him seated in our sight, his refractory spirit will not long continue. This method is short, simple, and easy, nor can the most tender parent object

to it. Many amiable persons blame themselves for want of firmness to be severe, and, knowing no adequate medium, they wink at faults, till they become almost incurable. Little ones contract a troublesome disposition, either from having their temper spoiled, and every generous feeling paralyzed by severity, or from the fault of their parents, who, humanely averse to such extremes, have not devised any other for their subjugation. A short time of silence, or confinement, soon brings them to order; but they must never be sent out of our view. It exposes them to accidents in infancy; and when of age to learn a task, they either fall asleep, or waste their time in play, which is a new transgression. They should be guarded against every opportunity to commit faults, more anxiously than from bodily harm, as every offence diminishes repugnance to evil. We have known the lives of all concerned embittered by the consequences of having forgotten to liberate a little prisoner. Good and judicious parents will not condemn an endea-

your to prevent such afflicting occurrences; nor will upright, though erring rulers take offence from our disinterested remonstrances and cautions. They will grant them a candid consideration, and we are assured of their acquiescence. As for those whose feelings are hardened by the habitual exercise of severe authority, we must expect their opposition; but we trust, that, among parents, the number of such dissenters, comparatively, are not numerous, and we are confident, that as the true methods for influencing the human mind become better understood, the converts to our system must increase.

IN cases of peculiar enormity, which, with children carefully instructed, will hardly occur, debarring them from conversation, and giving their meals at a separate table, though in our presence, will make the penalty severe and impressive to a high degree. 'The child may be also required to commit to memory some pious and moral lesson suitable to his circumstances. This sentence must be pro-

nounced with solemn deliberation and evident regret; for it will be found that parental grief has more lasting effects than indignation, invective, and reproaches. The humiliation which always follows the detection of a crime, disposes the delinquent to hear with submissive earnestness a concise, plain, and compassionate admonition; and it conveys a touching sense of misbehaviour to give reproof in the most secret manner, when the nature of a fault allows it.

WE are very solicitous to frame our maxims to meet every exigence, though we sincerely hope that many of the cases supposed possible are very rare.' We have known the sarcastic mother of a family who made *butts* of her own children, and often made them appear ridiculous by her satirical humour. It is easy to find occasion to deride an inexperienced creature, who dare neither retort, nor seem to take offence. If this lady had considered the fatal effects of wounding sensibility, or of hardening the bronze of effron-

tery, and the cruelty and meanness of displaying her own wit at the expense of unre-sisting innocence, she would certainly have restrained it. Children should not be re-buked or affronted before strangers. It ex-asperates the bold, and stupifies the timid—a vivid feeling of shame is one of the most powerful restraints on the young mind, but frequent public reproof will soon im-pair it.

SPOILING cloaths, or losing small articles of dress, is often treated as a heinous trans-gression; but it confounds guilt and folly to punish each offence alike. The inconve-nience occasioned by neglect is a sufficient penalty, and that natural consequence, and no other, should be allowed to operate as a caution to be more attentive in future.



## BAD HABITS.

HABITS which have taken root, and have been diverging into complicated evils for several years, will not admit of an immediate cure; and if we give way to fretful anxiety, instead of waiting for the gradual operation of the child's better reason, quickened by careful instruction, we shall probably dishearten him from a task, which, always irksome, must at times demand the most painful sacrifices. We must inspire him with the wish and hope of reformation, and enlighten his understanding, that he may have a just perception of the inducements to correct his faults; and though he cannot all at once effect it, the change in his disposition will be progressive and permanent.

LYING is an odious vice—so odious and detestable, that a creature who could have a just view of its turpitude would willingly un-

dergo the most excruciating remedy; but as well might we expect by farther stretching, to contract and to brace the sinews of a strained limb, as attempt, by pain and terror, to invigorate the feeble, or too sensitive mind that has recourse to falsehood for the purpose of concealing transgression. Let the penalty for faults excite less dread, and honest confession will be practicable. It is only by the absence of powerful temptations to offend against truth, that veracity can be made habitual to timid infancy, or that due regard to it can be regained when the domination of fear has introduced customary deception. But all such transgressions must be the subject of pointed animadversion in a few forcible words, explaining not only the sin, but the folly of an offence, which, criminal in itself, deprives the culprit of our confidence, debases his character, destroys self-respect, and involves him in many falsehoods to hide one fault, which, if candidly owned, would have been forgiven.

IN some instances, a young creature can hardly extricate himself from his entanglements without a total change of management; and he should be sent for a time where the overwhelming influence of fear may be forgotten, and a steady, but gentle authority should be employed to correct his errors. When he returns to his parents, they may continue the treatment best calculated to impress on his mind the importance of veracity, and of every voluntary virtue.

ALL bad habits are owing to faulty education, and are therefore a subject of self-reproach to the superintendent, who, through justice, ought to make the labour of reformation easy by every assistance and encouragement he can afford. Incongruity of character, whether it proceed from weakness, caprice, or violent passions, is the greatest of misfortunes; and the cure would generally keep pace with the good intention of the instructor, if the child was convinced that it is not a "proud and despotic spirit" that seeks to

controul him, but an affectionate friend who lays him under some restraints to preserve him from greater evils. He must be informed clearly and unequivocally how his fault may be amended; and not one word should be uttered that is not pregnant with self-evident truths suited to his limited capacity. We must also beware not to excite great anxiety or fear, which would deprive him of presence of mind to guard against the fault he is required to avoid.

VERY unamiable eccentricity is sometimes tolerated in the hope that an "odd creature" must be singularly clever; but harsh, unbending, or erratic lines are not essential features of a powerful mind, and too much licence is as unfavourable to improvement as severe coercion. We cannot superinduce, though we may frustrate, the choice gifts of nature, by giving way to bad propensities; and foibles may be checked without diminishing the native fire, or delicate acuteness of ~~so~~ sublime genius. If the child feels that

all his passions are indulged, he will soon despise authority both parental and moral; and if reasonable liberty be denied, the powers of his mind, in that unnatural state, will languish and decay. When he regards his nearest relatives as oppressors, he becomes deceitful and perfidious in self-defence, and can never, perhaps, regain integrity. The daily actions in which children are conversant produce an effect on their dispositions, and if either the tyrants or the slaves of their instructors, the due preponderance of willing obedience, or rational reliance on their own judgment is impossible. •

#### STUDIES, EMPLOYMENTS, AND ACCOM- PLISHMENTS.

If a parent should be unacquainted with the principles and duties of tuition, great inconvenience must occasionally arise from disappointment in procuring a governess, or through her ill health or incapacity: and

tentatious bustle or severity may be mistaken for attention, or indolence for good nature. A mother's ability to instruct, or to superintend, is ever advantageous, but in a remote residence it may be indispensable. And she even can "breathe an enlivening spirit," into all the lessons received from a teacher.

By giving complete education to the eldest daughter, a large family may be made highly accomplished at a moderate expense. A sweet and sensible girl will double her diligence to become capable of benefiting her sisters; and, animated by affection, she will not find such exertions laborious.

DANCING ought to be attempted in infancy, whilst the joints are flexible, and time of less importance. The utmost an ordinary master can do, is to bring the child to the proper use of her feet, which might be taught at home, with the certain acquisition of easy carriage and attitudes; both of which cannot escape being spoiled by long

continuance under the direction of a person incapable either to define, or to exemplify the higher graces: whilst the example of an elegant female daily affords some new advantage. Dancing seems to be the department in education in which mothers are most diffident of their own capacity for usefulness; but she who has been well taught herself need never doubt her own ability to teach her little girl, when she considers that verbal instructions in dancing can in no degree equal the effect of imitation. We would not be understood as dissuading from employing a competent teacher; but, when a good dancing master cannot be had, the endeavours of a mother or governess may supply the deficiency. As soon as a child can move with a firm step, her walk, positions, and carriage must be regulated, so far as to prevent uncouth or awkward motions. The most natural movements are always the most graceful, and we have only to prevent distortions. Collars and backboards are dangerous, by their too close compression,

or in case of a fall, and they seldom answer the purpose for which they were intended. They are always advantageously superseded by attention to infantine habits. Elder children may soon learn to give gentle, conciliating, and seasonable hints to remind the little ones in regard to their carriage, and in every other point of propriety or duty.

To recommend any acquirement as being much admired, is to make emulative vanity a settled principle. Diligence in the ornamental parts of education should be enforced with the view of giving pleasure and amusement to parents and near relations, and children will apply to them with the same simplicity with which they learn the plainest branches. In every performance the most pure and laudable inducements are to be suggested.

LESSONS in music ought to commence early, as proficiency requires so much time. A child will gradually learn to read music,



and by allowing her to practise on the instrument, the amusement it affords will, in some measure, prevent the disgust and weariness attending first attempts in a difficult study. If she cannot have a very able instructor, she must at least be taught from lessons in which the fingering has been accurately marked; “and in sitting at the  
“ instrument, holding the hands, and touch-  
“ ing the keys, all bad habits must be care-  
“ fully avoided. It is not the quantity, but  
“ the quality of practice that improves the  
“ beginner, for if compelled to continue for  
“ a longer time than she can command her  
“ attention, she will probably play incor-  
“ rectly. The time, however, must be in-  
“ creased when she can receive some plea-  
“ sure from her own performance, and  
“ lessons ought to be selected to make her  
“ progress entertaining, easy, and expedi-  
“ tious.” Unless a child be capable of per-  
severance, her attainments in music will  
afford no satisfaction; she will lose the su-  
perficial practice by a short interruption:

but thorough proficiency may be regained in a great measure, either as a solace when old age precludes active amusements, or in a change of fortune as a pecuniary resource. Girls should be taught the modulation of vocal notes at a very early age. If the voice be flexible and clear, it will acquire strength and variety by practice; and the habit of singing in private parties will give easy confidence; but care must be taken neither to pitch nor swell the compass of a song so high as to endanger the lungs, nor must the child sing more than a few verses without a long interval. A mother who has had good instruction may impart advantages to her girls before they be of age to have masters for singing.

ALL the advocates of female propriety must lament that some of our finest airs are set to words conveying unfavourable impressions to the young mind. This is an effect sometimes too slightly considered. Let a mother ask herself, will she place the beauty

of melody in competition with the prudence and delicacy of her daughter? Surely not, she will reply. Then let her never permit a verse to be introduced into her collection which may excite an idea unfit to be acted upon in the progress of life.

EVERY study ought to commence with the least complex, and most intelligible lessons. Unless the principles of drawing have been clearly defined and understood, lights and shades impossible in nature will be exhibited. Therefore, if an able teacher is not to be procured, to explain the peculiar *ichnography*, and the true method of artificially representing natural objects, to prevent bad habits the practice should be limited to proportions and outlines. If the pupil has gained facility and expertness in these mechanical performances, her progress under a scientific instructor will be quick and delightful. Allowing children the free use of the pencil when they can write legibly, will lead them to perceive their own incapacity

to fulfil the ideas formed in a lively imagination, and they will gladly receive the aid of a teacher. Painting flowers is more easily acquired than landscape drawing, and it is of material use in improving taste, and in choosing and making ornamental articles of dress and furniture.

WE would beseech ladies who are ambitious that their daughters should be accomplished, to calculate how many years, and how much instruction and application are demanded in one single study; and if attention be greatly divided, no more than a smattering in numerous branches can be obtained. Excellence in any of these will infallibly be esteemed; but shallow pretensions to universal acquirements generally make a young person affected and ridiculous, besides rendering her deficient in her performances. Music, painting, natural philosophy, sculpture, and in short every thing that can be undertaken by fair and delicate hands is now so customary, that without *uncommon* ap-

proaches to perfection, the *eclat* at which vanity so eagerly grasps is lost. No accomplishment should be attempted without sufficient leisure and opportunity for instruction and practice; and children should be incited never to stop short of high attainments; preferring always those that yield durable advantage. The skilful musician, paintress, botanist, the all-comprehending dashing girl, may be a very insignificant old matron or spinster; but she who in youth was admired as an amiable, sensible, prudent, and useful daughter, sister, or friend, can never be an object of contempt. Her qualities increase in value with her years—and if she be capable of entertaining her associates and herself by excelling in any elegant acquirement, her perseverance will be amply rewarded. These considerations are peculiarly necessary to people of moderate fortune. It is deplorable to see girls wasting their precious hours in embellishments never to be completed; or neglecting plain works and repairs for the sake of costly fancy-pieces, that,

in the fluctuation of fashion, are soon to be condemned as useless lumber. Wealthy pupils, and such as are intended for the tuition of others, may adopt every new style in ephemeral needle-works; but we would remind all who are deliberating on a plan of instruction, that life is short, the period for education still shorter, and that the employment of early years should have a view to the greatest possible benefit in future circumstances. The decisive efforts of extraordinary genius ought no doubt to be encouraged, so far as prudence may permit; but the saving made in a large family by expertness in making every article of apparel, and by neatness in repairing them, is never to be overlooked in a state of mediocrity—for though a girl may have affluence in her father's house, and make a suitable marriage, a numerous family will require the greatest economy. There is a vast difference between care and parsimony; and we often find that the most frugal are the most liberal in acts of true charity. Young women may be

taught management without meanness; and the custom of turning every thing to the best account, and letting nothing be lost, ought to commence even in infancy.

Boys are happily influenced by daily witnessing the industry, regularity, and attention of their mother and sisters; and by a conviction that the independence their lofty spirit assumes can be maintained only by keeping within their *pecuniary means*, and by observances which, taken singly, almost appear too trivial to produce great effects. They will perceive the danger of indolence, or inadvertence, if we show them how a few stitches of a needle, a nail, a pin, a little glue, or solder, too long delayed, may occasion the total decay of very costly articles. The sums squandered, or rather mouldered away by individual negligence perhaps exceed the interest of our national debt; and if we endeavour to reckon how many things are perishing by carelessness, it must fill us with regret and astonishment. The profits sunk

and thrown away by having ground unproductive or ill-improved in gardens and farms — by mismanagement of live stock, of the dairy, or inattention to professions, business, and trades, with the vast extent of waste lands in our empire, would amount to an immense revenue.

ANXIETY for making young men able linguists has cramped the genius of many promising students. We admit the importance of learned languages; but the mind must be contracted if chained to one point, and few opportunities be presented for unfolding its faculties. If we neglect to strengthen the reasoning powers, and to infuse such knowledge as may be indispensable in daily intercourse, the most perfect retention of idioms, construction, and terminations, can neither make a youth agreeable, nor useful in society. Let a portion of the day be devoted to Latin and Greek, and when during the remaining hours his intellect has been relieved and nourished by studies more level to his



apprehension, and capable to create some interest and amusement, the pupil will return to the classics with renovated vigour and aptitude. An acquaintance with literature in his native tongue, if not formed in youth, will hardly be sought after when the business and pleasures of maturer years solicit his attention. No gentleman would chuse his son to be ignorant of geography, history, biography, natural and experimental philosophy, and *belles lettres*; yet if the seeds be not implanted in early years, the flowers and fruits of elegant science will never adorn or promote the celebrity and usefulness of a learned profession. It is by reading English books that correct diction and elocution is to be attained; and the public speaker on every occasion, the divine, and the lawyer, are as much indebted to eloquence as to erudition. Let both be cultivated in early studies, but let no one branch engross the time that ought to be given up to another. Dead and foreign languages *may* prove serviceable, but the information contained in our *own* is essential

to the *finishing* of a genteel education, and to the business of life. A young man may have spent year after year in learning the style of Greek and Roman authors, and yet be unfit to contribute his share in intelligent conversation, or to maintain a pleasant correspondence.

LETTER-WRITING deserves much greater and more timely attention than is commonly allowed. As soon as a child can write on double rules of small dimension he ought to commence by addressing short sentences to his parents, who, having marked the errors, are to require himself to correct them. Letter writing combines more instruction than any other performance. It exercises and improves the understanding, memory, and judgment, the hand-writing and orthography, grammar, and style of expression. A child who can spell dissyllables by rote, may fall into very foolish blunders, when he first transcribes the words on paper. We have seen them divided into several parts, each begun

with a capital letter. To write ten or twelve words daily, will be of more benefit than to learn whole columns from the spelling-book.

. THE mode of education best adapted for producing a willing application to study, would be, one of the most valuable benefits ever bestowed on the human species. Perhaps, if new acquisitions could be made to yield the delicious feeling of self-complacency, without giving birth to self-conceit, children would be less averse to combat their natural indolence, or restless vivacity. “You  
“ must give up some ease, and some amuse-  
“ ment, my dear, to procure future enjoy-  
“ ments, and to save you from great evils.  
“ Observe the difference between a well edu-  
“ cated, and an ignorant person. In infan-  
“ cy both were the same. The gentleman  
“ owes his superiority entirely to those books,  
“ to which you apply with reluctance. You  
“ are now to chuse whether you are to  
“ sink to the state of the poor man, or to  
“ raise yourself gradually to the level of him

“ whom you see respected for knowledge.  
“ and the power of doing good to others  
“ and to himself.” Education should always be made to appear not as an arbitrary task, but as necessary to the economy and enjoyment of life, and to prepare the child for the business and vocations of manhood.

#### PRECAUTIONS AGAINST VICE AND FOLLIES.

**T**o guard against vice and folly, and to form and to establish moral habits, should be the paramount tendency of all precepts and lessons, since even in a sublunary state the most exquisite bliss, or the most pungent anguish results from mental principles and propensities. Whether we shall aim at the comforts of well-founded self-complacency, or seek to be useful and agreeable in society, a just discernment, and firm adherence to the dictates of moral truth, is the prime ingredient in beneficial attainments; thus education, to be duly comprehensive, is to render

the pupil not only intelligent and accomplished, but wiser and more happy. When we would adjust a plan for the instruction of our children, let us pause to inquire of what avail are the gifts of nature or of fortune, or the fruits of study, or the voice of fame or admiration, if the individual be often a stranger to self-enjoyment. Possessions and immunities are insufficient to purchase contentment, or to exclude chagrins; and youth, health, opulence, brilliant talents, and specious merits, may frequently leave their possessor the prey of tumultuous appetites, or of the sadness and irritation of morbid sensibility. Uncontrolled appetites; and indulged foibles, are the cause of disquietudes far exceeding the real miseries of life. Afflictions or privations may be supported with pious submission or cheerful equanimity, but the extremes of thoughtless levity, or of capricious dejection, unhinge the mind, and can only be rectified by self-controul, an effort which becomes practicable only by early habit.

It is no overstrained refinement to affirm that the most intolerable sufferings of human nature arise from deficiency in this respect. Happiness is a mental feeling; and its intenseness and durability must depend on the power we have gained over our own inclinations, and on the purity, vigour, and elevation of those sentiments that direct our conduct.

No extrinsic advantage, no crudite, or elegant acquisition is absolutely essential to our welfare, and they confer only partial good; but moral wisdom is in itself the science and vital essence of happiness. It is the only source of inward comfort and peace; and it promotes our interest in the world, by raising our character, and qualifying and disposing us for social duties. If this be a just representation, how egregious is the error to indulge, or negligently to weigh and harmonize the jarring passions of early age, which, in a very few years may become almost insuperably confirmed.

EVERY vice and folly we would condemn

in the youth, or grown girl, must be guarded against in childhood, and even in infancy. The pride and tenaciousness of an after period will resist endeavours to correct faults that might have been prevented or soon amended by timely care. In adolescence, untutored young people claim so much liberty to themselves, and have so little self-command, that as their own principles, habits, and understanding do not restrain them, so parental advice, or inhibition will have little efficacy.

A CHILD who has been permitted to take his Maker's name in vain, will employ these shocking expletives in manhood. They are, indeed, words shocking to piety, to good manners, and good sense; and most deplorable, if considered as the outrages of a worm against Omnipotence. If the common swearer believes in God, he is a madman to insult a power that can crush him in a moment; and if he doubts, what security is there against the commission of any crime

where temptation and the hope of impunity are presented?

CHILDREN accustomed to talk at random in the nursery, or who, by often listening to, or reading marvellous stories, have their imagination overheated, must be very carefully watched; and if any fiction shall be given as a fact, it must be treated with pointed ridicule, till the inventor acutely feel the contempt he has incurred. We are then calmly and seriously to turn his attention to the sin he has committed; but let it be remembered that “supernumerary words only weaken the effect of an exhortation.”

SOME young creatures betray a wretched covetousness, which, if not carefully corrected, will end in dishonest practices. Gifts of money at their own disposal aggravate this evil. Children should receive these favours only from their parents; and under their direction it is certainly advantageous to be accustomed to make purchases, and to



have a general idea of their own expenses. We have seen infants of promising abilities very ready to take undue liberty with the property of others; but by diligent instruction, and guarding them from temptations and opportunity, till their principles and habits were formed, they grew up with a just and firm adherence to truth and honour. Parents vainly flatter themselves if they hope that plentiful necessities and indulgence in luxuries will effectually prevent infantine avidity. Indigence is a severe test of honesty, but abundance can produce no virtue that has not been inculcated on proper motives. Instances of fraudulent practices in young men, and of females pilfering from shops, neither of whom could plead poverty in extenuation, may alarm parental tenderness to find out and to suppress the first signs of this disgraceful propensity. From their earliest years the most scrupulous integrity, liberality, fair dealing, and honour, must be enjoined in all transactions. Far from indul-

ging a smile at any instance of selfish dexterity, the children must see it is viewed with horror and detestation; and we may frequently take occasion to shew them that deceit is the resource of cowardly and contemptible animals even in the lower creation.

WHATEVER is spoken of in terms of admiration in the parlour, the nursery, or servants' hall, especially if it shall coincide with his passions, must give a strong bias to a boy's mind. He should therefore be kept carefully from improper associates, and grown gentlemen ought to refrain from mentioning in his hearing, any juvenile exploits which they cannot recommend for imitation. The shield of heartfelt reverence for virtue must be prepared at this age, to interpose between the youth "just springing into manhood" and the allurements of vice, and that perhaps when he is far removed from friendly admonitions. The cares of a parent must be "employed in long and comprehensive views," adapted not only to circumstances immediately ex-

isting, but to all dangers that “come within the scope of probability.” All companions, and all books that have a tendency to vitiate the heart must be excluded; and we must impress his imagination, and convince his judgment, by such representations of the consequences of immorality as may fill his mind with disgust and horror.

THE miseries of a gamester, depicted, in all its gradations towards ruin and despair, might so affect a boy's mind as to countervail temptations to hazard a large stake. Gambling should never be mentioned in his hearing without testifying alarm and abhorrence; adding, that it demands deeper and more laborious study than what is necessary to obtain honourable independence, perhaps eminence, in a liberal profession. We should avail ourselves of every occasion to fix in young minds this certain truth, that many painful toils and sacrifices are annexed to vice, and that it affords far less enjoyment

than is to be found in virtuous industry and prudent self-denial.

THERE is another vice more common, and yet more fatal than a vicious indulgence in cards and dice, and which, alas! is known to tyrannise over strong and worthy minds. The gambler may be reclaimed with his intellect and constitution unimpaired; but the slave of inebriety destroys both. He sins indeed against himself only, but it is a deadly sin. Yet a fond mother will initiate her son in excess to contribute to the diversion of a riotous company. She ought rather to prepossess him with the utmost repugnance to a failing which is always the effect of custom. The dread of ridicule, and a wish to be accommodating, compels the stripling to join in draughts which are at first distasteful, but soon become agreeable, and at length necessary; and can a mother sanction the first enticement to this vice?

If, by suppressing “things ungrateful to

“ the feelings,” their attendant evils might be prevented, the monitor of inexperience might be spared many very painful and disagreeable offices. In treading on tender ground we may benefit the reader, but we hazard her displeasure if we revert to a point in which she is conscious of blame. Will she pardon us for adding, that the indignant flush that mantles on her cheek should be regarded as a warning to search out, and to correct the error. We would probe this secret corruption, not to give pain, but to deliver her from its fatal effects; and however our skill may be doubted, we hope our tenderness will never be called in question.

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IN no instance does early mismanagement give rise to evils so dire, so irreparable, as from over-indulgence of a volatile temper. Gaiety and mirth are so attractive, that young people affect to sparkle by sprightly sallies, if they cannot dazzle “ by coruscations of genius, wit, and fancy.” But in cherishing a cheerful spirit, we must never lose sight of

establishing habitual circumspection. Pure principles engrafted on a sound understanding, from the first capacity for instruction, will sufficiently moderate the most exuberant vivacity; and self-examination, nightly reviewing thoughts, words, and actions, whilst fresh in a girl's recollection, will lead her to check many foibles, ere they are able to degrade her character, or to afflict her parents. If she has deviated from propriety, it will amount to a reproof if her mother shall say, "search your own heart, my dear, for this or that particular." Conscience thus aroused, will pointedly remonstrate, and her castigations are more effectual than reproaches, or vigilance, that often fail in affecting the feelings, convincing the reason, or controlling the manners. If some part of her conduct must be censured, a mild but firm aspect in setting forth the offence will shew, that it is her own danger which is chiefly considered. It is impossible to imagine more mortifying agony of soul, than the dilemma of a mother who feels that to impute,

levity to her offspring is a subject of extreme delicacy, yet dares not overlook dubious behaviour, lest bolder freedoms should lead to worse consequences. We must, in early infancy, provide against these disquiets, by teaching a lively and explicit distinction between right and wrong, and by keeping all bad example at a distance. A giddy playful hoiden is a very improper attendant for girls. Seeing her romp with the footmen diverts them—they take the same liberty with their juvenile beaux, and habits are progressive. These are considerations never to be left to chance; nor should we permit associates of their own age with our daughters, unless we know that they are incapable to mislead them. Many little ones have unhappily copied from the inconsiderate votaries of fashion whom they have regarded with admiration. In short, if parents would, recollect how much easier it is to instil principles than to modify manners, many wretched marriages, blemished reputations, and aching hearts, might be prevented. There are few girls

who would not endeavour to shun disasters so frightful, if their instructors, instead of employing harsh reproof, would have recourse to impressive arguments. A rattling young creature may be restrained, but she will not be amended by severity. She will dissemble in our presence, but as soon as she can escape, she will eagerly give way to her propensity. Her cure depends on shewing her real disposition. And those friends to whom it is known, will, with good humoured steadiness, point out the dreadful consequences to which she exposes herself.

At that critical age, ere the mind has firmness to abide by its own convictions, to bring young females into promiscuous company at balls, is a hazardous experiment. Where admittance can be cheaply purchased, there may be equivocal characters who would proudly make themselves conspicuous in attention to beauty, dignity, and elegance; and good nature may be misinterpreted as affording encouragement. To very young persons,



there is a delusion in public exhibitions which is apt to cause a temporary oblivion of sage maxims. In the concert hall, the theatre, and all places of sedentary amusement, the inexperienced fair is stationary under the constant care of her chaperon; but in the "mazy dance," she is committed entirely to her own circumspection; and if a matron would recollect with what thoughtless velocity she has been whirled along a gay succession of objects, she will not deride the counsels which would guard her children from that fascination. We would not, however, debar them from an innocent and pleasing exercise which conduces to exterior grace, and may be indulged in perfect unison with the most rigid delicacy and prudence. Balls for young people have indeed been turned into hot-beds of vanity by the folly of their conductors; but adhering to simplicity in dress and deportment, and no excess being committed by late hours, or unsuitable refreshments, they may be converted into seminaries of discretion. The youth of both sexes will have less to

correct in mature age, if, under the eye of their parents, at a period when they are not too self-sufficient to take advice, they shall have learnt to govern their emotions, and to regulate their conduct in scenes resembling those where they are frequently to meet, when a few years have set them at liberty.

MEASURES of precaution may prevent the most afflicting calamities, and insinuating youths whose alliance a parent would disapprove, must not be admitted on the terms of intimate acquaintance; for a girl, though sincerely devoted to filial obedience, may have her affections so far engaged as to leave no alternative between an unauspicious union, or an ill-sustained disappointment. If a partner, an assistant, a secretary, or preceptor of the above description is to be received, the girls upon their emerging from childhood should not be permitted to remain at home.

THE influence of vanity on the female mind demands the most serious attention;

and where it prevails in the other sex, it never fails to enervate every nobler propensity, and to form a frivolous character. Ladies who are sincerely inclined to moderation are sometimes betrayed into indirect encouragement of personal vanity, from an excess of apprehension that without implicit obedience to the mandates of fashion, their little girls may grow up slatterns. Assuredly neatness and propriety can be made habitual without degenerating to extravagant and superfluous decoration in dress. Even where rank and fortune demand costly materials, no vain emotion will be excited in the bosom of a child always accustomed to their use; nor can she have any idea that they are marks of distinction unless her attendants give her the baneful information. If permitted to wear a frock, without comments on the addition her beauty receives from it, or if it is not mentioned as being finer than could be afforded by her companions, no bad consequence can ensue. Its delicate texture may be praised as the product of ingenuity or in-

dust, but never as an article of finery; that quality she will know in good time; but, in opening youth, let her regard cloathing as a mere defence from the weather. No doubt she will hear of its effect in embellishing her person, notwithstanding all the precautions her mother can observe or enjoin; yet, to diminish an evil is always a point worth gaining. The most perfect elegance, in whatever relates to external appearance may be inculcated, without one intimation or allusion that can lead a child to attribute the care bestowed on her to any motive beyond a wish for giving a general habit of exactness. Tell her that all wise and good people do every thing in the best manner, knowing that negligence in small matters may grow into a worse custom, and bring on omissions that would destroy the happiness of her parents. Her own heart will subjoin that such misconduct would also make herself miserable.

It is the acknowledged dictate of prudence to accomplish our views by the most simple

and sure methods; but in making vanity an engine of education, we shall find its effect too complicated and incongruous. If its fatal intoxication shall be permitted, it will, like a subtle active poison, pervade the whole system, and deform native beauties by the low arts inseparable from a craving for admiration. Let us calculate what may be hazarded, and what may be lost by introducing absurd self-value; envy, affectation, and perhaps imprudent expenses, with all the train of follies these include. Admitting that a desire of appearing to the highest advantage, shall quicken a girl's attention to her dress, or to showy accomplishments, her attractions will upon the whole not be enhanced. Self-conceit never fails to give disgust, and though a young creature labours to disguise it, she cannot succeed. It is a most important fact, that it is easier to exterminate a foible, than occasionally to conceal it. The easy expedient we have suggested cultivates all the graces without the hateful alloy of over rating them. Whoever would induce a child

to personal attentions may succeed completely by urging simple truths—that stooping is prejudicial to health—that careless walking distorts the joints, and renders the limbs less serviceable—that neatness in dress, is the external sign of mental purity, and harmony—that care of the teeth will preserve them sound, and that covering the face with a shade on going out during sun shine protects the sight; and as it is natural to wish for being agreeable, we may assure our pupil that every good quality, besides making the possessor happy in her own mind, will prove the strongest recommendation to others.

Several eminent writers on education have called the attention of mothers to the bad consequences of giving gaudy toys; and they have justly reprobated the error of making children prize their possessions for being new. A passion for novelty or glittering shew, and for low gratifications, may be discouraged by giving any part of dress, and all animal indulgencies, as things of course; and

as we have already observed, the variety in children's pastimes should be obtained through their own active invention. This will in some measure exempt them from a painful sense of privation when diversified pleasures must be exchanged for books, and lessons; and finding they must depend on each other for amusement, will draw still closer the ties of natural attachment. If to this a due regard to good manners is super-added, and strictly required from them to one another, their lives will seldom be embittered by contention. Vanity causes much strife in the nursery. The misses dispute about features and dresses—the masters about cleverness—but all these disquiets proceed from inattention in their mother, and want of judgment in the nurses, who by their idle discourse, have conveyed these ideas. If to this shall be joined maternal partiality to the *beauty of her family*, heart-burnings and sorrows are inevitable. A child seeing her wishes the first consideration, her choice first consulted, and her sisters denied

what she can obtain, will be but too apt to arrogate some superiority; and finding herself an object of greater notice abroad as well as at home, will further inflate her vanity. But all these privileges will be purchased at a heavy price in losing the heartfelt endearing sympathies interchanged by good tempered liberal minded sisters. Let mothers fairly look into the consequence of these preferences, and they will shun errors teeming with evils to the beloved object not less than to the rest of her children.

THE utmost solicitude and tenderness cannot make the favourite's passage through life of one smooth and pleasing tenor. She must encounter some of the "natural shocks" that flesh is heir to," and if unaccustomed to moderate her feelings, every "rub" will act with more painful attrition through her own impatience. If she enters into the marriage state, the same habits will indispose her for assimilating with the tastes of her partner for life; and unless she is powerfully restrained



by religious and moral sentiments—which are indeed almost totally incompatible with intemperate vanity—a self-idolized youthful wife is laid open to all the hideous woes that have been occasioned by encouraging general adulation. Alas! how often have the annals of hereditary honour been deeply stained by the vain victims of frailty!!!

THOUGH in the lower walks of life the brand of disgrace very seldom thus “glares horribly,” great unhappiness arises from obdurate selfishness. The comforts and delicacies of her table, and the appearance made by her husband and tall daughters, will seem but of secondary importance to the matron whose prime delight has ever been the adorning of her own dear person; and without mentioning the ruinous extravagance to which this ambition may tend, we shall find its ordinary course replete with petty tortures. Some neighbours will at times have preceded in displaying a new fashion, or out-

vie in splendour the vain female who even in her vernal season cannot escape mortifications; and no artifice can retard or conceal the odious depredations of time which she is yet unprepared to endure.

AMIDST all the inconveniences of a narrow fortune, the humble, placid, industrious mother is incalculably happier in giving up many comforts for the sake of her children, than the uncontrolled-mistress of affluence whose self-centered vanity is her ruling passion. We have seen plain good people vain of their offspring, and it is a great weakness, as it leads young creatures into the foibles we have been investigating; but as the error of the parent originates in ill-directed affection, it is more to be lamented than blamed, and is in no respect so contemptible as individual vanity. Could we persuade the fond mother, that, in becoming vain, her lovely girl will also become unamiable, how carefully would she guard her from the temptation. She would anxiously prevent her guests or do-

mestics from holding conversation in her hearing that could excite ideas of peculiar enchantment being ascribed to beauty; without giving the child room to suppose she had any direct aim, she would frequently intimate the short duration of youth and personal attractions, and the superior value of good dispositions; and far from encouraging the love of dress *to set herself off*; she would omit no means to obviate the idea. This we know by experience to be easily practicable, and we have had full evidence of the happy consequences of the mode we suggest.

IN a state of celibacy, unavailing solicitude to prolong the season of admiration, makes the *waning charmer* very unhappy, and produces the ludicrous assumption of girlish dress and manners to veil the approach of autumnal decays, whilst the ridicule attached to these unequal efforts must be felt at times with poignant anguish. How different is her situation who has not been intoxicated by the bright and blooming fascina-

tions of youth! she resigns these gay pretensions with a good grace; and, by many estimable and agreeable qualities, still maintains influence and connexions in the world that warm her heart, and exalt her character. We have known nephews, nieces, and remoter relatives supply to an unmarried lady all the endearing satisfaction and deference of filial gratitude. We have beheld her, without relinquishing social pleasures, not only a parent to the family of a sister, or brother, but to the children of the poor, inquiring into their necessities, and promoting and directing remedies for their ailments, their ignorance, or distresses. These employments afford present satisfaction, and the sweetest retrospections; and leave no room for the meddling inquisitiveness which the want of an interesting pursuit is alledged to create in well-meaning, but officiously busy spinsters.

WE are aware that the pride and the profit of worth and usefulness ought not to be

held out as motives to the young mind; but parents need every collateral inducement for invigorating their endeavours to form their children for the vicissitudes they may have to sustain. We cannot foresee their lot, therefore our cares must embrace a large circle of probabilities. The consciousness of solid worth, and a capacity for usefulness may be rendered more delightful than the swellings of vanity, and a hope of obtaining esteem and confidence may be made more powerful in the unsophisticated mind than a desire for admiration. Rational, and worthy thoughts will lead to respectable conduct, and vain, frivolous notions to corresponding manners.

SOLICITUDE to cultivate the faculties of youth for lucrative or ambitious views misleads some very sensible parents, who appear to forget that without moral rectitude, benevolence, and circumspection deeply seated in the heart, and common sense to weigh the greater against the lesser duties of life, no classical

or scientific attainment can prevent many glaring defects in conduct. A self-conceited boy has generally many worse faults as he advances to maturity. Pedantry or puppyism, and all the extravagancies that attend it, may be occasioned by inadvertent praises bestowed when the child was believed to be too young and heedless to mind them.

GENIUS is the subject of vanity with boys, but in their presence it should never be mentioned with applause. Let us take into account not only present but remote consequences, and we shall be very careful to convey no impression that may tempt a youth to condemn the labour of intense application, or to sink into despondency from a consciousness that he has no pretensions to great talents. Children of both sexes should be convinced that no gift of nature, or of situation, confers merit, but in proportion as it calls forth estimable qualities. Spirited efforts to overcome difficulties, and instances of persevering diligence ought to be highly

commended, and even casual hints on the subject may become motives to exertion. Strong passions, or very volatile spirits will for a time retard the effect, but what children hear frequently, will sink into their memory, touch their feelings, and gradually influence their conduct. The efficacy of reiterated instruction cannot be too strongly enforced upon of those who have the management of children. It is the only means for directing without fettering and perverting the mind of the pupil. A strong bias may be for a time suppressed by absolute controul; but the ruling passion pent up by the effect of terrors, like a smothered flame which breaks out when it comes in contact with air, will assert its power whenever the season of liberty arrives. A wise monitor, by repeated and persuasive admonition, will lead youth to correct their own foibles. A mild but firm authority, must corroborate the more gradual operation of reason, yet from reason alone, are we to hope for self-denial and circumspection, and children must

have "line upon line, and precept upon precept," to convince them that, to be good and prudent, is to be happy.

• We now have lightly glanced at the means of guarding against the vices and follies to which youth is peculiarly liable; and we cannot conclude without a solemn caution to parents in the words of an author, whose penetration is unquestionable, however some of his opinions may be regretted: "nothing tends more effectually to poison morality in its source in the minds of youth, than the practice of holding one language, and laying down one set of precepts for the observation of the young, and another for adults." If children see their rulers indulge in the commission of faults for which they are reprehended, they will feel themselves at liberty to transgress whenever the offence can be concealed.

A RELIGIOUS and devout spirit should manifestly govern the whole conduct of those



who require pious exercises and self-denials from their children, but a severe aspect will not fail to counteract all edifying exhortations. Rigid restraint on harmless gaiety, or gloomy denunciation of penal consequences, have driven young men to seek ease and freedom in sceptical doubts, which, favouring their darling inclinations, have been tacitly adopted as the clear dictates of reason. The injunctions of an austere and punctilious earthly parent, may thus estrange her son from the duties he would render with a willing and cheerful heart to his Father in heaven, if these duties were represented according to the genuine principles of *his service, which is indeed perfect freedom*. It has been observed, “that the being and holy attributes of the blessed God seem to be the only truth of which we have undoubted certainty;” and these are the natural sentiments of young men who have been taught to trace the wisdom and goodness of the Almighty in this “universal frame;” but the instructor must respect the feelings of an ar-

dent mind, jealous of every encroachment on its liberty that cannot be proved as demonstrably incumbent. Let us make it evident that christianity exacts no performance, and forbids no enjoyment by arbitrary command; but that whilst the precepts of our Divine Redeemer lead to life eternal, they also promote temporal peace and felicity. We must, with peculiar earnestness point out the shining evidences of a life to come—so numerous that the only ground of astonishment must be, how any person possessing the use of common understanding, can be so blinded by his passions as to act unworthy of an inheritance, compared to which, crowns and sceptres are insignificant as the toys of infancy. Under these impressions, a youth will not fall an easy prey to vice and folly. He will perceive that no extreme of religious zeal can be so irrational and absurd, as apathy, or thoughtlessness concerning his condition after death; and revering the superior wisdom of his indulgent, but attentive parent, the recollection of her chastened

kindness will give efficacy to her admonitions, when they rise up in memory long after *her place on earth shall find her no more*. If these considerations were allowed due weight, the dissolute conduct of some young men brought up by sincerely pious, but too strict monitors, would not have drawn discredit on christian education. The sons of bigoted religionists, like the sons of misers, go to the opposite extreme from a spirit of contradiction; and the enemies of order and of economy take occasion from thence to plead the cause of licentiousness. The best and most beneficial principles, when carried to great extremes, are productive of the worst effects, and ought to be kept within the bounds of just moderation in our conduct, and in the maxims we prescribe to our families.

INATTENTION to practical arithmetic, and false hopes of parental affluence, have plunged many into embarrassments which correct information might have prevented. Young persons might be desired to sum up the exact

amount of their father's income, and after deducting the general family expenses, let the remainder be apportioned to each individual, calculating how much may be allowed for personal necessities. The articles coming under these denominations must be enumerated, and the sum subdivided accordingly; each separate item should be entered into a book, with firm determination never to exceed it—and they must all be distinctly summed up at short intervals, so as to guard against encroachments. This habit, early introduced, and perseveringly followed in youth, would obviate many irreparable misfortunes in riper years.

#### GOVERNORS. AND GOVERNESSES.

MAINLY, rational, consistent piety, is the chief quality requisite for a guide of youth. There is a charm in the example of genuine goodness with which no stoical precepts can touch the mind: but gloomy enthusiasm is as

entirely distinct from the impressive influence of rectitude and benevolence, as compulsion is from conviction. The formalist may extort a certain routine of heartless studies; but the pupil cannot engage in them with the freedom and fervour of spirit imbibed by witnessing the effect of virtues that have been inspired by true religion.

SYMPATHETIC imitation and partial reverence lead children involuntarily to new-model every expression and movement by those of their teachers. Peculiarities of appearance, of dialect, or manners, should therefore be regarded as insuperable objections.

PARENTS who have paid little attention to the difficulties of tuition, form expectations too sanguine; and if the children do not fulfil these ardent wishes, it is imputed to some failure in their instructor; but a due regard to the child's comfort and solid improvement ought to prevent too great a desire for very rapid acquisitions. To form the growing

intellect, and to impart reason, sentiment, and knowledge, to a mind that has not perhaps one precise idea, cannot be accomplished in a very short time.—The governor or governess may explain elementary principles in terms very intelligible to a docile and attentive child; but to engage and to fix application upon the giddy, or to prevail with the intractable to make exertions, will dissipate a considerable portion of the time allotted to study. Violent suscitations of attention may extort some performances, but they are not to be purchased without the sacrifice of higher considerations. The parents should participate in, or at least they should frequently witness the obstacles and discouragements with which a teacher has to struggle, and they will be convinced that they ought to refrain from censures; besides, their presence and authority must promote the end in view, and be of infinite service in every respect. Even the plain sense and sagacity of a pair whose education has been defective, may advance their children's improvement,

by their frequent visits to the school-rooms. A young instructor has a character to establish, and it depends upon the expedition with which the scholars are advanced; but hurrying forward a child at the expense of present happiness, of temper, candour, and love of employment in after-life, is not less judicious than disabling the limbs by rapidly completing a journey, which, without inconvenience, might be taken with more deliberation. We beseech parents to consider, that it is of little essential moment whether the boy or girl shall be *finished* at fourteen or fifteen years of age; but it is of the last consequence that they shall neither be irascible nor sullen, dejected nor disingenuous, artful nor averse to occupation. We would not be the advocates of idleness. Every hour should be diligently occupied—but as far as encouragement can influence inclination, we would have inclination to accord with duty. The more pleasant and free we can render the pursuits of children, the more strenuous will be their efforts in all that is useful, honour-

able, and excellent. We are not indeed to wait for these days of wisdom—there must be stated times, and stated employments, and if we adhere to them with uniform, but kind exactitude, they will seem more and more agreeable.

A JUDICIOUS teacher will attend to improve the reason, and strengthen the judgment, rather than to exercise the capacity for retention. The memory may be burthened, whilst the faculties that are to digest the treasured knowledge have scarce any perception of their own powers. It is a good method after a child has learned any rule or extract by rote, to require him to give the meaning in his own artless language, either verbally or in writing. It is of the utmost importance to ascertain that he is able to affix explicit ideas to the subject of his studies; and he should be animated by a clear conviction that the human intellect is capable of great performances, if time be not wasted in frivolous or immoral pursuits. Folly and vice should be



represented to him as implacable foes to mental improvement in every period of life.

AN instructor will find great advantage by frequently asking himself, am I taking the most effectual method to advance my pupil's progress? Can I define this principle or rule more clearly? If the parent take an interest in these points, such as we have recommended, he may advert to particulars which, in the eagerness of communication, may escape the speaker; and perhaps a plain sensible man, who knows little of the topic under discussion, may more readily find out the difficulties that puzzle the young mind, than if he came fully instructed in it. When any difference of opinion arises, it ought to be discussed in absence of the children, who never should perceive that any arrangement or opinion of their teacher is disapproved of by others. Kindness and deference from the parents are necessary to enable him to make beneficial impressions. Respectability in his own attire, deportment, and manners, is also

indispensable in giving this influence. Superlative natural endowments, and the highest advancement in learning, seem to be essentially distinct from a capacity for imparting instruction. The failure of Doctor Samuel Johnson as a teacher, and the success that has attended many men of less shining talents, evinces the transcendent value of consistency in behaviour, uniform attention, patience, and perseverance.. Let no preceptor rely much on scholarship. It is not what *he knows*—but what he can infuse into the mind of his pupil, that gives him merit in his profession. Let modest unassuming worth take encouragement from the certainty of succeeding. He who conscientiously studies to improve his own attainments and method of communication, who keeps a strict guard on his temper, and consults the advantage of his charges preferably to his own ease, will confer greater benefits upon them than a literary prodigy who disregards these inestimable though less splendid qualifications. Self denial and self go-

vernment are the highest excellencies in those who undertake to edify the understanding, to regulate the feelings, and to form the habits of youth. To form men of worth is more conducive to the well being of society than to hazard children's integrity in making them men of letters by severe tuition.

A RESIDENCE in town undoubtedly affords many advantages conducive to education; besides giving young people habitual confidence in themselves, easy manners, acuteness of discernment, and knowledge of the world; but all these benefits hang upon other circumstances, and upon particular management hardly to be expected from a servant. Rambling boys are not willingly subjected to female controul, nor are the companions of a domestic calculated to improve girls.

PURE morality and delicate prudence are of such indispensable necessity to self enjoyment, to general prosperity, and good esteem, that no acquisition can make up for the want

of these principles. People who have never lived in town can form little idea of the snares arising from low company; and, as the faithful friends of youth, we would urge them to remember that they ought to preserve their families from every approach to evil. Two or three relations or neighbours will find the expense no object if they employ one governor or governess; and they might have all the children in their houses by turns. If the mother, by having an additional servant, could become the instructress of her family, the benefit of her constant attention would fully compensate all pecuniary sacrifices. A short residence in town, or in a respectable boarding school, would complete an education carefully conducted in the country, and to which only a little finishing was wanted.

SENTIMENTS AND HABITS FOR YOUNG PERSONS  
INTENDED FOR BUSINESS.

THE ill effect of superfluous endeavours to amuse children has been already noticed;

and, if, hurtful to the offspring of affluence, how pernicious must artificial gratifications become to those who, in after-life, are to be subservient to the will of others. Young people who have been born or reduced to this destination, should be prepared for it by every sentiment that can repress wilful humours, or stimulate to cheerful exertion. To reconcile them to their lot, and to the endurance of many unforeseen hardships, their hearts should be filled with reverence for the unerring wisdom, power, and benignity of the great disposer of all events. Let them be assured that all are equally objects of his care and favour who seek those blessings by sincere prayer and obedience. Convince them that God assigns to each of his creatures the station most conducive to universal good; and that rational felicity, all that is truly necessary to adorn or to sweeten life, does not depend on our place in society. The useful arts are neither gross nor insipid to those who pursue them with ennobling views, with an upright, liberal,

benevolent, and cultivated mind; and there is in a rational and immortal nature an inherent dignity unalienable by any malevolence or power, unless the individual shall be accessory to its diminution by unworthy conduct. So long as they respect themselves by good behaviour, they will meet with esteem from all whose opinion deserves to be regarded.

CHILDREN whose future maintenance must be the fruit of industry, should be very early accustomed to its exercise. If allowed when young to indulge in the pleasures of idleness, it will afterwards make application more unwelcome. Besides timely and close attention to branches of instruction, they ought to be accustomed to do as much as they can for themselves, for their parents, or for each other. With these impressions and habits, the son or daughter of a gentleman will undertake to compensate for the want of fortune with the same happy alacrity which softens the toils and sustains the fortitude of a peasant. “To early predilections and as-

“ sociations, aided by the force of custom,  
“ we may trace the gaiety and contentment  
“ so conspicuous in the inferior classes of  
“ mankind, who think themselves completely  
“ fortunate, if, by daily labour, they can earn  
“ a competence of homely food and ‘rai-  
“ ment;” and all who must owe subsistence  
to the diligent employment of their talents  
ought to form congenial dispositions and  
habits, even in the first stages of their lives.  
The most encouraging prospects should be  
held out from beneficial and virtuous occupa-  
tion, by calling the children’s attention to  
instances of success, and by mentioning that  
people who have a determinate object of pur-  
suit, are, upon the whole, happier than those  
who consume their days in idleness. If the  
family have fallen from more prosperous  
circumstances, no regrets should be ex-  
pressed in hearing of its youthful members,  
as it may dwell on their imagination, and  
augment their reluctance to descend to a  
lower sphere. But, whilst the parents use  
every means to fit the adventurers for present

exertion, they must not lose sight of qualifying them to enjoy its fruits, by refined manners and a cultivated understanding. Feminine employments lead to intercourse with ladies whose polished example confers improvement; but great pains must be bestowed in childhood, to dispose the young apprentice to fill up his leisure hours to advantage. Besides rendering him agreeable and intelligent, a taste for well chosen books will help to confirm his principles; keep him from scenes of riot and depravity, and in all respects meliorate his disposition. If he succeeds in business, the refinement conferred by select reading, will set him upon a level with the higher ranks to whom wealth may introduce him; and a young man possessing general information, will be able to engage in a different line, if that which he first attempted should by any variation in the balance of trade disappoint his hopes.

A CHARACTER for unblemished integrity is the first requisite for persons in business; but



young people should be made to know it costs much less trouble *to be*, than *to seem*, inflexibly firm in truth and honesty. The convenience attending deception is temporary, but the entanglements it produces are endless. They lead to other falsehoods, which are speedily detected, for all-righteous Providence has decreed that every one is soon known for what they are, and the only means to obtain a good character is to deserve it. This truth should be engraven on the young mind, with unremitting care.

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#### SEMINARIES OF EDUCATION.

THE first entrance into school is an important era in human life, and, as a truth of immeasurable magnitude, we again remind the fond mother, that upon the sentiments with which she has embued the mind of her lisping infants, depend, in a great measure, the comfort and proficiency of the schoolboy, the happiness of the man, and the blessedness of the

immortal spirit. If the infant has been taught without enthusiastic heat, or gloomy terror, to love and to fear Almighty God, from whom it is impossible to hide even one thought.—if he has learnt to reverence himself as a creature; though prone to evil yet capable of much good, by continual reference to the Holy will of the Divine Inspector of all his thoughts, words, and actions — if he has been accustomed at home with his brothers and sisters to act upon the principle of doing to others as he would wish to be done to, and that an union of agreeable, useful, and estimable qualities is necessary to make intercourse with his fellow-creatures comfortable—all which may be impressed on the heart by seasonable, short, and easy lessons, in full consistency with the playfulness and simplicity of early life. If the child has also learnt to derive a laudable self confidence from the improvements which he owes to his own industry, he will at a school not only enjoy the mirth and cheerfulness of a child, but likewise a foretaste of the internal

satisfactions of a rational agent; he will also attain the good will of his companions, and the approbation of his masters—so far as can be merited by a weak erring creature in the very season of passion unsubdued and unmodified by experience: Parents, the most judicious and most willing to support the authority of teachers, are very painfully moved by the disgrace and punishment of their children; and, if they would always deal honestly with their own conscience, it would tell them that the poor infant not unfrequently pays the penalty of neglect or mismanagement in his first habits. "Very great proficiency is required; and exertion is not to be produced by moral or prudential motives, if the mind has never felt their influence. Severe coercion must be employed as the most immediate stimulus; for if the teacher shall wait the gradual, but more effectual operations of moral influence and patient instruction, he may be blamed as dilatory. Do we apologize for rigour? God forbid. But we would illustrate this fact, that inflictions

at school may be the consequence of errors at home. Let infants receive their first impressions and habits chiefly from well ordered parental attention, and in school they will hardly ever incur severe treatment.

WE have experienced the blessed influence of a reverence for all that is presented in the form of *duty*, even before the first stage of life had passed away; and it is a motive which becomes more efficient with every new accession to the reasoning powers. If an infant has learned a little repeatedly during every day since his earliest capacity to retain instructions, custom will make it as a second nature to exert his powers, and if his tasks be diversified by assigning him short lessons in reading, spelling, geography, or a few easy numbers to be added together, the mind will be refreshed by variety. Education cannot assume the careless form of amusement, but it may become interesting, cheerful, and familiar, so as to be preferred before rapid idleness. Early application to useful

studies prevents that childishness so visible in little ones who are frequently trifling, and who are spoken to in unmeaning words by way of amusement. Good sense may be expressed in very simple language, and a child may learn much in the course of an amusing dialogue; nor should he at three years old be addressed in a style which might not help to raise the tone of his feelings and understanding at the age of six. Little ones who can derive uniform attention from their parents, or from a sensible, well principled superintendent, ought to receive the rudiments of their first studies at home, to ensure good habits—but if they cannot have decided moral advantages, the sooner they are boarded with worthy persons who devote themselves entirely to the care of youth, the less they will have to *unlearn*. This early estrangement from home should never take place but in cases where they cannot obtain due care. The sense of filial subordination and affection is weakened by absence, but it is yet more impaired by negligence or seve-

rity—and the tender charities nurtured by domestic endearment languish for want of exercise, when the infant cannot with perfect freedom impart all his thoughts and wishes to his parents. After the seventh year, a select and well managed day school is extremely beneficial to children who see little company at home. It wears off the shyness which the most amiable dispositions are the most apt to contract in seclusion. It polishes their manners, enlarges their ideas, and may save them from the exquisite pain of extreme diffidence in after life. A certain degree of ease is indispensable to make young persons engaging. The external signs of a consciousness that we act aright, dispose others to entertain the same opinion of us.

WHEN children attend a day school, they must be watched with very great penetration and vigilance at home, in order to detect and oppose the beginning of evil habits. Social intercourse either improves or injures every individual; and it depends on the manage-

ment of their vacant hours, whether children shall be improved or corrupted by their companions. Though they attend a school, proficiency greatly depends on learning their lessons diligently at home; and if there be no private tutor, and the father cannot give his aid, it will be the truest proof of amiable tenderness in their mother to make a point of enforcing application, and hearing even boys recite the different portions they must prepare for their several classes. A flow of volatile spirits, or slow capacity, may hinder a Tyro from getting his task if left to himself, and yet by a little help he may do very well. Elder children, in the presence of their parents, may perform this duty, which ought never to be omitted; and during the time they are thus employed, their parents will have opportunity to discover, and to admonish them against any latent foible which new scenes may have excited. But this introspection must not be formal or manifest, for unless young people are unconscious of

particular observation, they cannot appear in a just point of view.

To encourage children by prying inquiries to repeat trivial circumstances, would be meanness in the parents, and might lead a child to the low and dangerous practice of blabbing: but that all which passes at school is to be kept a profound secret, is not a correct maxim. General prohibitions against speaking disrespectfully or invidiously of any person, will be sufficient; but, to fetter a child's conversation, or perplex his ideas of right and wrong, by admitting that any concealment from his parents is commendable, may give rise to criminal reserves and connivances. There is a species of curiosity, which cannot be too strongly reprobated, as it ensnares little ones to tell falsehoods, and ultimately retards their progress in learning. Extreme anxiety tempts the parent to inquire how he stands in his class; if low, he is commanded to ascend; but other scholars



of brighter parts, or more indebted to assistance at home, get above him; he is again interrogated, and punished because he has gained no higher place, whereas his candour and humility in stating a circumstance so much against himself ought to have been encouraged, for what is "scholastic lore," even in advancing worldly interest, without rectitude? Finding truth itself cannot shield him from harshness, he learns to deceive, and is entangled in a maze of falsehood and prevarication; and, quite distressed and unhinged, is still unable to become a bright genius. No question should be proposed to children that can risk their integrity.

PLAYING truant brings children to make numerous artful excuses, and exposes them to many temptations and accidents. All this might be prevented by making it a rule to see them safely to school, and to meet them on their return, and to conduct them home. Considerate minds will not deem

trivial any expedient to prevent habitual deceptions. The keen feelings and heedlessness of little ones, make them transgress against their own better judgment, and bad customs are imperceptibly contracted, which, though for a time disregarded, may branch out into consequences of which at first their friends had little apprehension.

As all children cannot complete their education at home, boarding houses for boys and girls are institutions most valuable to the community. An unfounded idea that masters never relax from magisterial authority, makes young people very averse to become their inmates; but the paternal vigilance and coercion they are anxious to shun, is their safeguard, and will recommend such a situation to prudent parents. On the other hand, home, whether it be their usual abode, or a temporary residence, ought to be made joyous and easy. When under no painful restraint, the child's true character will be known, and of this knowledge a judicious

teacher will avail himself at school. Even the ordinary conversation in a well informed family, tends to unfold talent, matures the judgment, regulates the taste, and confirms the morals; and notwithstanding the heedlessness of youth, the daily recurrence of edifying remarks will make indelible impressions on his mind; whilst the young person, who in vulgar or ignorant society is daily losing part of the better sentiments and more refined manners which he acquired in his father's house, has his intellect degraded, at the season most favourable to its expansion and improvement.

A CELEBRATED writer on female education has observed, that the efficacy of the best conducted system is not so soon apparent as in the superficial detail. 'Tis most true, that we only can prove the purity, uprightness, and wisdom of a cultivated and well regulated mind, but exterior embellishments and shewy acquirements are speedily un-  
 derestimated; and all are able to observe, and

in some measure to decide upon their progress.

THE friends of virtue, who know her real *interests*, will promote them, by enhancing her attractions; and an union of worthy, amiable, and engaging qualities, may be effected by furnishing respectable motives even for the lighter studies.

THE inclinations of young people must be thwarted when they run counter to solid advantages. A physician cannot compound all drugs from sweets and aromatics, nor will all disorders of the mind give way without some admonitions offensive to youthful pride. But unless flagrant offences call for animadversion, general strictures, and implied cautions come home most convincingly to the feelings; for it is certain, that, against pointed reproof, the haughty selfishness of human nature shuts up the heart. It is the truest kindness thus gently to dispose our pupils to self-consideration, as every frailty we

can overcome makes way for an augmentation of happiness. "On rectitude depends the comfortable use of external mercies," and without the heartfelt consciousness of worth, rational beings must be at variance with themselves.

BUT a child may seem to be much changed for the better, and yet, if too soon removed from his instructors, he will relapse into former habits. Where principles are not established, virtues may be local, or at least so intimately connected with certain modes of restriction, that if any link of the chain be disjoined, the whole will fall into disorder. Continuance under the same management is therefore necessary until the judgment be so far confirmed, as resolutely to adhere to its own approval. Those who undertake the direction of the human intellect, after its habits are in some measure formed, have a task far more arduous than the parent who moulds the ductile sensibility of infant minds. Children have an unfortunate propensity to

impute to ill humour the reprimands they receive from hired instructors, whose influence can only be maintained by patience and good humour; besides, the example of self-command will be of the highest advantage to the pupils. Formal lectures will seldom be of use; gentle appeals, both to the understanding and feelings, must be frequent, but so delicate, as neither to depress the spirits, to irritate, or severely to wound the pride of a girl at a distance from home. All practices really immoral must be disallowed at first. The child will make less resistance when quite a stranger, and the hazard of any bad example to her companions forbids toleration; but in what relates only to humour, greater latitude and delay are admissible; and excessive volatility or violence may be more successfully combated by slow approaches. Though it is difficult to be inconsistent in education, it is still the opinion of well approved thinkers, that a child who has been indulged, if subjected to a severe and sudden change of government,

will perhaps become inert, and gloomy. Strong measures do indeed constrain the outward behaviour, but the mind pertinaciously clinging to former desires, will seize every interval of liberty for their gratification. We must, therefore, with a very tender hand; unbind these trammels; and as we have before observed, the less the child can perceive our intention, the more readily will she yield to the effect. Children also conduce much to improve each other. The mixture and collision of the grave, the gay, the mild, and the imperious, the active and the sluggish, the circumspect and the impetuous, is beneficial by their contrary influence upon one another. But this advantage can only take place when they speak and act without constraint, by shrewd remarks, correcting each others' foibles. Therefore, some part of every day should, as the reward of diligence, be left at their own disposal, allowing them a large apartment, where they may pass their liberty, and communicating their sentiments to each other, and for bodily exercise.

DISSIMULATION may be evident, yet incapable of proof, and if even we could convict the child, it is more prudent to give no intimation of the discovery, unless it may be necessary as an example to others; for so long as a child believes our good opinion has not been forfeited, her bad propensities will be restrained by self respect. It is so easy to disappoint, to frustrate, and to weary out artifice in children, and to place every kind of falsehood in an odious light, without any personal reflection, that we should avoid coming to particulars. Rebukes only irritate a disposition hardened by habitual cunning; and all the effect will be to make the offender more wary in other deceptions, which is but aggravating the mental disease. Very young pupils, or those of riper years whose general conduct and manners require particular superintendence, will be seriously injured by passing from one master to another for receiving different branches of education. Each professor will no doubt improve the child in the department he undertakes; but the many



nameless proprieties and graces of feminine deportment come not under his cognizance. Governesses of competent ability may be obtained by giving adequate encouragement; and since tuition is the only source of independence for accomplished females, every plea that can touch the heart of benevolence should intercede in their behalf on equal terms; and when it is evident that they are qualified to confer *every advantage*, prejudice only can prefer the other sex. How absurd would it seem to have boys taught by females, when a master could be procured! Superior excellence in music, or any of the higher refinements of education, joined to gentleman-like manners and respectability of character, are irresistible claims, especially as instructors of more advanced pupils; but children who are backward in the essential rules of behaviour, ought to be taught by a governess. If deserving of her trust, she will attend to improve the disposition, the temper, language, and address, and to polish the general carriage, whilst occupied in teach-

ing the detail of education. This uniform attention, and the example of personal elegance from one instructress, is the nearest resemblance to domestic tuition.

WE cannot exactly quote the words, but we shall use the sentiments of a favourite author, in observing, that, when plans are well laid, and rules carefully digested, it is the wisdom of the ruler, and for the advantage of the pupil, that they be punctually observed. But occasions for exacting obedience must not be needlessly multiplied, which would tease and disgust without benefiting the pupils.

#### BOOKS AND LITERATURE.

WE have heard an ingenious man produce many arguments to prove that a literary taste is equivalent to another sense; and it is certainly an exhaustless source of pleasure, and a potent auxiliary to the principles of religion and virtue. The girl who can cheerfully relieve the tedium of domestic occur-

rences by a well chosen volume, will escape from many of the follies and indiscretions to which those are liable who have no resource but in dissipated or gossiping parties; and in ill health, or declining years, she will not be compelled to depend upon the charitable visits of her acquaintances to enliven her spirits with all the chit-chat of the day, or to make up a party for the card-table. Possessing the means of independent amusement, the lover of books will generally visit others, or be visited herself from affection and esteem, and her home will be secured from dullness, by a mind irradiated, refreshed, invigorated, and polished by useful and elegant information. If any adverse occurrence shall interrupt her serenity, the library will supply a balsam of efficacy to relax the irritated feelings, or better sentiments will be called up to subdue them; and a decided preference for all that is amiable and excellent may be expected to mark her conduct who daily consults the ablest guides.

SOME professions abound in leisure hours, and all the engagements of a gentleman admit of frequent relaxation. The pen, the pencil, and musical instruments may fill up part of these in a very agreeable manner, but a few successive rainy days will render such employments tiresome; and if the youth has not cultivated independent enjoyments, he will fly to frivolous or dangerous society, to beguile the lagging minutes. The importance of a capacity for intellectual occupation to human beings of all denominations, can be fully known only to such as have been frequently conversant with the propensities of early age, and the habits of the inferior orders, who are debarred from expensive amusements. All who consider how insidiously vicious pursuits assume the semblance of pleasure and happiness, must be convinced, that, to give inexperience just ideas of dignity as rational agents, is *the only* sure expedient for counteracting passion, and establishing morality on a firm basis. The parent who has cherished a literary taste

in her family, essentially promotes their happiness, and provides for their safety; as, in exploring the treasures of intelligence and refined entertainment, they will find many powerful motives to excite and sustain them to the discharge of every duty. We strongly disapprove of indiscriminate novel reading, not only on account of the dubious tendency of many of these productions, but as a waste of time; yet we prefer the mania for hastily skimming over pages, before a strong desire for expensive dress and company, or an appetite for low anecdote, or an infatuation for gambling. But all these faults are to be avoided; and if by social reading and polished conversation, a young person has learnt in some degree to appreciate works of real merit, the value of a fleeting day will be too well understood to consume it in the perusal of unedifying adventures.

**The most watchful superintendence cannot prevent improper reading, unless the pupil is restrained by uprightness and delicacy;**

but the heart that has been purified and exalted by attention to moral truths, will be withheld by its own principles from "giving way to prurient curiosity, and will feel that there is as much criminality in looking into an unsanctioned volume, as in any other species of fraud or dishonesty." We are not however to prohibit particular works, but to maintain a general rule, that all books are to undergo the ordeal of parental inspection before time is thrown away on the perusal.

We would have our daughters to dislike gadding, and our sons to be superior to the allurements of dissipation. A taste for useful employment, and for literary entertainments, is the surest fund for solidity of judgment; and those pure affections that delight in the ties formed by nature and Providence to sweeten retirement, are ever most powerfully felt by cultivated minds. When home has been gilded in early life by tranquil and sincere enjoyments that soothe the

feelings and satisfy and improve the understanding, domestic scenes will be preferred before all the blandishments of pleasure and the enchantments of gaiety; but the seat of dulness and painful restraint will for ever be disliked—tender recollections and daily felicity endear the spot “where youth’s free “spirit innocently gay” has been matured and mellowed to more sober and self-derived satisfactions; and were there noother ill consequence in austerity than in giving habitual disgust to home, it ought to make parents extremely cautious never to let the friend be lost in the monitor.

In all our management of children and young persons, our chief object must be the introduction of sentiments that are friendly to virtue and happiness. “Opinions that conduce not to sweeten the intercourse of domestic and social life, and excite to useful exertion, may furnish ingenious amusement, but they possess no real value.”

## DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

It is not according to our ambitious hopes or wishes, but in conformity to their probable prospects, that we must educate our children. So far as circumstances allow, they ought to participate in the accomplishments, and be prepared to enter into the refinements of life: but our tenderness, as well as our prudence, should qualify them to practise the more humble, but always valuable domestic arts. A lady who makes up and repairs her own attire, who has acquainted herself with every particular circumstance of a servant's duty, and takes an active concern in preventing waste or carelessness, will be respectable and useful in her father's family as in the conjugal state; and her excellence in managing her own household, will be conspicuous. If she remain in celibacy, she cannot be regarded as an insignificant member of the community; and wherever she may visit or reside, her opinion and advice will be received with deference.



SHE who never indulges in any expenses but such as her own accurate calculations assure her are moderate and suitable, will always maintain independence; and though it may be necessary for her to engage in the actual preparation of cookery and confectionary, she will retain the characteristics of a gentlewoman by personal neatness and the elegant precision of her performances. Without overlooking details, she occupies herself in consistent and distinct arrangements, combining frugality with dignity and grace; and she is fitted either to encounter unfortunate reverses, or to adorn an exalted sphere: for if domestics are not judiciously chosen, and properly called to account in their several duties and disbursements, even an immense fortune can hardly escape incumbrance. The comfort and interest of the most opulent must be insured by the steady restrictions of a superior, whose taste will give effect to magnificence, by introducing order and symmetry into all the parts, still retrenching

every superfluous cost and decoration. When domestic economy is viewed in this light, the proudest fair one will not disdain to rank it amongst her accomplishments.

WE have stated some strong objections against sending girls to town under the government of a servant; but the most weighty of all is, that this absence will deprive them of early acquaintance with housekeeping, the most essential acquirement for persons of small fortune. The practice ought to commence between the age of nine and eleven years; and having all their days received lively predilections in favour of usefulness, they will eagerly prepare for it. It depends on parents to make their daughters value "certain qualifications as their most desirable distinctions," but they may imbibe very opposite notions if they be under the care of a domestic who is neither able nor inclined to take any trouble about their opinions. "Elegant attainments do not preclude the most exact attention to economy, nor even the

humblest offices of housewifery. Improved understanding and taste are favourable to industry and neatness; and the girl who is slovenly in her person is seldom a good manager in her house. Essential and useful acquirements ought no doubt to be preferred, before all that are merely ornamental; but there is no incompatibility. Let children begin early, and be induced to voluntary exertion. Let reading, writing, arithmetic, and needle work, be held up to them not only as the most necessary, but also as the most creditable studies. Accomplishments in two or three years may be introduced as a reward for proficiency in their other attempts, as they are often the best dependence of females who are but slenderly provided for, affording pecuniary resources, and cheering amusement in a single state; and they also enable a mother who cannot conveniently apply to hired instructions, to give her children a liberal education. In the progress of this work, we have never lost sight of furnishing helps to the parent who takes upon herself

this pleasing duty; and we shall now lay before her a simple system which has formed very notable, though unostentatious managers. In large families let the girls be allowed week about to accompany their mother in all her domestic superintendence, and the exercise thus afforded will prevent the ill effects of sedentary employment in the course of education. It will mature the judgment, and restrain volatility to have some charge. The best remedy for giddiness will always be found in employments that require foresight, and give a child the happiness of deserving approbation. The most painful endeavours of a mother for teaching these homely duties may be soon repaid in important services. We knew a girl, not twelve years old, who took care of an enfeebled mother, a bed-ridden father, and three little sisters, besides regulating all the family affairs. We knew another about the same age, who had not even the assistance of maternal advice, during several months, yet she conducted a numerous family in the absence of her parent.

These young persons were in no respect extraordinary for their abilities, but they had timely and careful instructions, with which advantage many of the same age might be made equally useful. By acting under the immediate direction of her parent, a little girl will learn the most complete and expeditious manner of doing any thing, and servants will have no opportunity of tampering with her integrity.

THE family expenditure should be exactly recorded by the young housekeeper, to shew her the importance of moderation and care, and to improve her in arithmetic. Whatever employment or charge the children may have, they must not be discouraged, nor too much required of them; nor should they be severely reprimanded for mistakes or omissions. To anticipate wisdom in all possible directions, and to extend its ramifications to every point that may be necessary, is the *perfect whole* we must seek to form in education. Competent skill in the management of a family,

and in the care of children, is far more essential than all the elegant arts on which so much time, expense, and anxiety are bestowed; and were it not a subject too serious, and even melancholy, we might find it ludicrous to see a mother more anxious about the ornament of a few years, than that species of knowledge which must constitute her child's future comfort, make her respectable and useful, and protect her from the mortifying consciousness of "lying at the mercy of servile officiousness, presumption, or unfaithfulness."

SINCE the prevention of any inconvenience is the sole aim of our unadorned pages, we hope it is not much beneath *didactic dignity* to remind parents that young ladies sometimes appear to sad disadvantage through incapacity to assist in doing the honours of their father's table, and it is only by early habits they can acquit themselves in this or in any other performance with neatness and ease.

To those who may at first sight contemn those counsels, we beg leave to offer the following anecdote:—When the Princess of Hesse Darmstadt was invited to bring her daughters to the Court of the Empress Anne of Russia, it was with the hope that one of them might be the wife of her son, the ill-fated Peter. The Czarina observed the young princesses from a window as they alighted from their coach. “Ah!” said she, “the second shall be the wife of my son, she has alighted with dignity and grace; but the eldest made a false step, and the youngest leaped out precipitately.” Some acute reasoner may draw inferences from the carving of a chicken, or the division of pastry.

No part of education is so valuable as that which prepares young people to act with promptitude and decision in common affairs. Innumerable errors and misfortunes might be avoided by a habit of thinking and acting for themselves, subject always to the advice and controul of their parents. This fore-

sight and reflection might be further improved by some knowledge of their father's transactions, and their mother's household management. Ignorance of country concerns, and of settlements with agents and workmen may be a great inconvenience to ladies, who, by inheritance or marriage, are interested in the care of an estate.

A SENSIBLE man will prize in his wife the capacity of acting as his unassuming counsellor; and if he should be called on the service of his country, disabled by ill health, or bidding adieu to wordly objects, he will be consoled by knowing that the remaining parent of his family has the power of doing them full justice. Superior strength of mind has qualified many mothers to acquit themselves admirably in such circumstances; but previous instruction would have made the charge less burdensome. It cannot be supposed that young ladies are to study these matters with the same accuracy as men of business; but in the course of conversation



with judicious parents, much may be imparted of inestimable utility in future life. Whatever views young men may prefer in after life, an actual concern in managing their father's affairs will give them promptitude, dexterity, and experience, that must be highly conducive to professional success—and prepare them to make the best use of every acquisition.

THOUGH the information and practice so obtained should not prove of immediate service, it may in the course of years come opportunely to recollection; and in the mean time, by filling up leisure hours, and engaging attention, the occupation is in itself an antidote against licentious follies. Youths who are treated as companions by a wise and communicative father, are seldom addicted to degrading vices. They will even forego many indulgencies to avoid displeasing him, or giving him pain; and as they can tell all their schemes and wishes to their liberal

"minded mentor," he may unmask a lurking evil, or warn them from many involvements.

"THERE are few young people so void of sense as not to avail themselves of parental experience, if not discouraged by asperity. Freedom must begin on the part of the superior." If you would have your child or pupil unbosom his thoughts to you, his affiance must be invited by kindness and condescension.

IN appearing before the public under the true designation, the terrors of female authorship are abated, in recollecting that the substance of what is now presented was honoured with the approbation of the editors of the periodical paper called the "Bee," many years ago. When sent to these Gentlemen, under the signature of E. T. *Obscure*, they were pleased to mention it in terms far exceeding the expectations of the writer; and we hope the additions made since that time are useful improvements.

All that treats of the prevention and cure of distempers has been sanctioned by high authority, besides being the practice of an able and successful professional character. He was at much pains to qualify the mothers of his infantile patients to act in cases of slight indisposition; and they applied to him with far greater readiness and confidence, than if he had left their minds in total ignorance, to be misled by gossiping retailers of marvellous remedies.

OUR sketches are now near the conclusion, and whatever imperfection may be imputed through inelegance of style, or the absence of amusing variety, and the higher graces of composition, we plead the negative merit of good intentions. We fondly hope an outline of the means that have largely contributed to form useful and worthy members of society, may be as acceptable to the heads of a rising family, as the most elaborate and approved disquisitions on culinary affairs: and, since the most enlightened and pene-

trating investigators of moral and intellectual science are convinced there are frequent and fatal errors committed in directing the first operations of the human mind, it is the duty of all who believe they can contribute even a mite to the advancement of this great object, to come forward with their experience. Theory alone has never produced valuable improvements: and it is impossible for the most learned and penetrating author to form a just idea of the management of infancy without a series of actual and very attentive observations. No undertaking can surpass this in difficulty or in magnitude; and really to understand in what manner we may "fix the generous purpose in the glowing breast," and produce the best state of body and mind, demands not only to be under the same roof, but to live by day and night in the immediate presence of many children.

It is not by fortuitous combinations that unbroken cheerfulness, fearless independence, and dutiful submission, can have due propen-

derance in the heart of a child; and those dispositions happily tempered, and equally blended, are of the highest benefit in all conditions individually and collectively. No means suggested by the inventive resources of mankind can render a nation prosperous, but the wide diffusion of liberal sentiments, inspired and confirmed by religious principles. It is by *intellectual education* enlarging the reason, that young persons are brought to feel the true grounds of parental and moral authority; and the example of each individual affects others by influence neither slight nor evanescent, especially in family connexions. Imprudence and wickedness are generally the inheritance of those who are descended from worthless parents, and the wise and good frequently bequeath their virtues to their children.

THE system of moderation and tenderness we have recommended, would render the ties of parent and child the invaluable comforts of life. Injunctions and restraints are de-

cessary in youth; but they may have full effect without trenching on the harmless liberty, or invading the comforts of any period of tuition. Judicious coercion, softened by endearment, will always find returns of obedience; and no ungracious claims to freedom will ever oppose parental advice bestowed with mildness; but negligence, hard usage, or inconsiderate license, vitiates the heart, cramps and extenuates the mental powers, and unamiable propensities habitually predominating, are made to embitter the declining years of a father or mother, without any deliberate design of unfilial conduct.

WE hope the freedom of our discussions cannot give offence. We have been solicitous to convince inexperienced superintendents of infancy and youth, that innumerable preventive cares, and small attentions are indispensable in forming good habits. We have endeavoured also to point out the most essential particulars, and to furnish some criterion by which parents and governesses may

judge how far their own management is calculated for these valuable ends. With this view we have animadverted on errors at the hazard of appearing to descend too low, and of being too minute and scrupulous; but much misery may be prevented by successive and seemingly trivial efforts to impress the tender mind with clearly defined perceptions of right and wrong, and by an impartial inquiry of our proceedings with respect to our children. By correcting our own errors, and discovering omissions before they could produce inconvenience, the heart and the understanding of our charge may be duly prepared to give all diligence in the lighter acquirements and embellishments that taste or fashion might prescribe. The most splendid talents, the most brilliant accomplishments, and the most fascinating graces, owe their brightest lustre to virtuous and amiable qualities, which, even as essentials in the art of pleasing, deserve unremitting attention from all who are desirous to bestow a *finished education* on their children.

BUT there are higher and nobler inducements to cultivate the most sublime faculties of a rational nature. This is only the infancy of our being. After going through all the stages of sublunary existence, the fruit is unto life eternal; and on the seed now sown depends the final produce of felicity in a state that shall never end. Infallible knowledge, and unerring veracity, have assured us, that, *as the tree felleth so it must lie*: an awful warning to all those who are employed in forming plants of everlasting growth. Let the guardians of infancy and youth lay it seriously to heart, and let it be their first, their most fervent desire to make their pupils *faithful and abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that they shall thus grow up like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth fruit in season; and whatsoever he doth shall prosper.*



## A SIMPLE STORY.

ELIZA and Sophia were natives of the South of Scotland. Eliza's countenance owed its *charm* more to expression than regularity of features. Sophia's face and form displayed the most beauteous perfection of symmetry and elegance. Eliza was little noticed except in her own family, where she was loved and valued as the hourly dispenser of benefits. Sophia's fame for loveliness and accomplishments had obtained wide celebrity. Eliza had never known idleness. Sophia had hardly an idea of occupation. Eliza was the pride and blessing of her parents—but they had never gratified one wish which the most unbending prudence could disapprove, nor had any foible escaped their judicious but gentle animadversion. Sophia placed much of her happiness in obtaining all her wishes or fancies; and if she committed no blunder in adjusting her dress, or displaying her acquisitions, her doating aunt was all compliance and encomium. Eliza

was the active friend and almost the servant of numbers; Sophia was waited on by two obsequious attendants, in the person of her aunt's Abigail and her own; and even the old lady would assist in disposing the ornaments which with lavish fondness she bestowed on the thoughtless votary of fashion. How many young ladies will envy Sophia! how few would exchange situations with Eliza! A very short space of time will prove whether judicious restraint and beneficial employment, or indiscriminate indulgence, be most conducive to permanent happiness.

ELIZA was but nineteen years of age when she became the wife of Mr. Sutton, a cousin of Sophia's. He was a gentleman of a large but incumbered estate. Several of his acquaintances blamed him for marrying a girl without fortune; but he and his mother were satisfied that the most valuable dowry is an amiable disposition and habitual prudence. Sophia's indulgent aunt was no more, and had bequeathed her property equally between

that young lady and her nephew, Mr. Sutton, about six months previous to his union with Eliza. That happy pair settled in London, where the abilities of the young pleader promised success at the English bar. They offered Sophia an apartment in their house. Since her aunt's decease she had lived with Mr. Sutton's mother, and was heartily wearied of retirement; and as she was persuaded the same dull round of wisdom and industry would prevail in her cousin's family, she preferred boarding with an old acquaintance subservient to her *will*. She could not however, quite decline visiting her relation and guardian, and in a few months she was often a voluntary guest. Mr. Dalziel, a neighbour of Eliza's father, had come to town upon business. He was deeply smitten by Sophia's dazzling attractions, and it soon appeared she was not insensible to his fine person and engaging manners. Of his more solid merit she was unfit to judge, but they were abundant; and he had a free though not extensive estate. In a short time he told

Mr. Sutton that he had obtained Sophia's consent to become the happiest of men. Mr. Sutton assured him he earnestly wished to promote his felicity, but that before he gave a decisive reply, he must talk to Sophia. He waited upon her, and entreated she might consider that five hundred a-year, and the interest of her twenty thousand pounds, would be insufficient for the style of living to which she had been accustomed. He added, that Dalziel was a worthy and sensible young man, whose independent spirit would abhor the idea of living beyond his income; and that he feared he would be under the necessity of thwarting her in a manner she would ill submit to; or, by yielding up his better judgment, incur certain ruin. Sophia had never been used to reason. Her aunt had indeed controlled her so far as to extort attention to every showy branch of education, but she had governed her infancy by mere force, and the entire freedom she enjoyed since her demise, made Sophia tenacious even in trifles. In short, she married

Mr. Dalziel, and they set out enraptured for South Vale. Mr. and Mrs. Sutton soon followed to pass the vacation at Ashmount, a small place to which Eliza was partial, as it lay contiguous to her paternal home. South Vale was but a few miles distant, and thither Mr. Sutton and his wife went to pay their respects. Mr. and Mrs. Dalziel were finishing a very late breakfast, and Mrs. Sutton observed, with inexpressible concern, that Sophia's dress, and every appendage of her establishment, bore glaring marks of profusion, carelessness, and mismanagement. She led the way to her own bed-room, to shew the more experienced matron some new furniture. Throwing a heap of clothes off two chairs, she sat down, and after sitting a few minutes, as if lost in thought, exclaimed, "Oh! what a loss it is to have neither house-keeper nor waiting-maid. Dalziel assures me that since I *must* have a carriage and four, we must submit to other privations. — for my part I know nothing of what he calls calculation, and must leave all to him-

“self, though I suspect he denies me attendants, to force me to learn economy; and I confess *I do now* wish I had paid some attention to arithmetic, and to that plaguing thing called house-keeping. I have had hardly time to breathe since I came here. Oh! for some of the hours I spent lounging on the sofa last year! I am ready to quarrel with myself for marrying Dalziel, handsome, and good, and adoring though he be.”

“DEAR Mrs. Dalziel,” interrupted Mrs. Sutton, “let me beg you will not for a moment allow yourself to think in this manner.”

“I NEVER took the pains to suppress any thought,” replied Mrs. Dalziel, “and I cannot but see, that, if destined for happiness, I would have been the wife of a richer man.”

“You may yet be happy,” said Mrs. Sut-

ton, "if you will but determine to suit your  
 " wishes and expenses to your fortune. Mr.  
 " Dalziel's income, though not large, is  
 " sufficient for all the comforts, and many  
 " of the elegancies of life, if laid out with  
 " economy."

"BUT of that," said Mrs. Dalziel, starting up with a look of unutterable discomposure, "of that I know nothing—am I to  
 " go to school again? Will you, dear Mrs.  
 " Sutton, take me as an apprentice to house-  
 " keeping?"

"THAT half playful, half sorrowful countenance and manner makes me doubtful  
 " how I should reply," said Mrs. Sutton.

"OH! don't reply with that sad look," said Mrs. Dalziel. "Would you throw me  
 " into horrors before my honey moon is out?  
 " It is inevitable—I have been a fool—I am  
 " a fool—and must suffer the consequences of

“ disregard to useful attainments. What a  
“ look that is! you pierce me to the heart.”

“ My dear Mrs. Dalziel, these tears, and  
“ this sense of inconvenience may produce  
“ happy effects: . Allow an older matron  
“ than yourself to give some very simple  
“ rules to assist your management. First,  
“ remember the succinct, but excellent  
“ maxims in the Cottagers of Glenburnie:  
“ ‘ Do every thing in its own time, keep  
“ every thing in its own place, and have  
“ every thing for its own use.’ To these I  
“ would add, ‘ Defer not till to-morrow what  
“ may be done to-day,’ and remember, that,  
“ upon the care and economy of each hour,  
“ depend the comfort of days, of years, and  
“ of a whole life time. If, to complete  
“ these, you recollect every night the pro-  
“ ceedings of the day, and endeavour to rec-  
“ tify oversights or mistakes in your subse-  
“ quent management, you may be yet as  
“ notable in housewifery as you have been



“ conspicuous for beauty and accomplishments.”

“ I HAVE neither patience nor steadiness to act upon a plan,” said Mrs. Dalziel, “ but Edmund has sense, and he will assist me.”

“ HE has sense and good nature;” said Mrs. Sutton; “ but have you considered the consequences of adding a heavy weight to his other complicated concerns? or the impropriety of troubling him with a charge so unsuitable? Believe me, it is dangerous to appear to a husband quite incapable of conducting our own department. Mr. Dalziel, with all his candour, will hardly perceive your gradual improvement. How fondly do I revere the memory of my good mother, who taught me to perform the duty of a housekeeper! and if ever I have a daughter, it shall be the most prominent part of her education.”

“But my good aunt,” said Mrs. Dalziel,  
 “who was all I knew as a parent, provided  
 “me with a servant to do every thing for me.  
 “*True*, that is past, and leaves not one bene-  
 “ficial trace behind, but the advantage of  
 “your instruction remains, and will always  
 “procure you comforts. But surely your  
 “youth was very dull and dreary.”

“A MIND that had been early taught to  
 “regulate its own feelings,” said Mrs. Sutton,  
 “is never unhappy; you know the vivacity  
 “of my disposition—it was bounded, but  
 “not suppressed by my honoured parents;  
 “austerity and rigour I never knew; but to  
 “what is commonly termed indulgence I was  
 “equally a stranger. Ever since memory  
 “can restore one image, I have been learn-  
 “ing something, which even now I find be-  
 “neficial, and I cannot recollect the hour  
 “which did not bring it with some una-  
 “voidable employment. This ceaseless oc-  
 “cupation or activity has braced my consti-  
 “tution of mind and body. Would it not

“ be a noble effort to do for yourself the ser-  
“ vice my excellent father and mother per-  
“ formed for me. I beg you may take it  
“ under consideration.”

“ CONSIDERATION is hateful,” interrupted  
Mrs. Dalziel—“ it condemns me—how  
“ could I who knew not how to manage an  
“ honest man’s family undertake it? Alas!  
“ my mind has been enervated by false re-  
“ finement. When I walk out with Dalziel  
“ I am startled by the rustling of a leaf, in  
“ case it may be some of my tormentors com-  
“ ing to ask *what they are to do*. I am a  
“ termagant in the kitchen, and scold the  
“ maids because I am dissatisfied with my-  
“ self. It is wretched folly to have spent  
“ six or seven years in diverting myself,  
“ without learning one particular to save me  
“ from misery as long as I live.” At this  
moment a servant came to say Mrs. Sutton  
was wanted. Oh rising she saw her carriage  
at the door, and was immediately alarmed  
for her father’s health. Since her mother’s

death he had been declining daily, and on rejoining her husband in the parlour, he informed her in the most tender manner that their revered parent was struck by the palsy. The ties that bound Mr. and Mrs. Sutton to Ashmount were in a few weeks dissolved; but in the multiplicity of their own concerns Mrs. Dalziel was not forgotten. Mrs. Sutton wrote to her, recapitulating her advices; and in the most delicate terms urging her attention to them. She received a cold and formal reply. The correspondence dropped; days and years rolled on; Mr. Sutton sometimes heard from Mr. Dalziel on business, but no other correspondence took place.

MRS. SUTTON was the mother of a numerous family, whom she educated with unremitting care. One evening, as she and her husband were surrounded by this industrious, but happy groupe, a knock at the door announced visitors, the hour was unusual, but a kind reception was ever ready for their friends. A squallid figure entered, followed

by six children, and accompanied by a gentleman who seemed with difficulty to maintain his equilibrium. "Mrs. Dalziel!" said Mrs. Sutton with astonishment—"and her besotted husband and unruly brats," rejoined Mrs. Dalziel. "That's unfair," interrupted Dalziel. "Drive a man to the tavern, and then upbraid him for taking some wine—or let weeds spring up, and abuse the soil for affording no better produce." Mrs. Dalziel, in great heat, was going to reply; but Mrs. Sutton gently drew her from the parlour to her own room, where she had hardly been seated, when with a flood of tears she exclaimed, "Oh! Oh! Dalziel spoke too true! I knew he spoke truth, yet I cannot brook reproaches, even when provoked by myself. Spoiling and wasting, without shew or comfort in my family, the expenditure every year far exceeded our income; and as Dalziel is determined to do full justice to his creditors, we are come hither to dispose of the estate. Nor is this my worst calamity. Deprived of all

“ that could render home desirable, my poor  
“ Dalziel betook himself to the tavern, to  
“ pass away a little time; but, alas! that re-  
“ laxation has become necessary to him, and  
“ he seldom goes sober to bed. And my  
“ children! my unhappy, neglected chil-  
“ dren! unprincipled, uneducated, yet bold  
“ and forward; what is to be expected from  
“ them? I am the bane of my dearest con-  
“ nexions; and, without committing one  
“ atrocious deed, I am beset with horrors. I  
“ have wasted my life in pursuit of visionary  
“ excellence and visionary happiness, and  
“ with all the means of solid and substantial  
“ good within my reach, I am, by perverting  
“ their use, sunk into wretchedness and con-  
“ tempt. Let no young woman hereafter  
“ rest satisfied in ignorance of *domestic eco-*  
“ *nomy*; and let no mother deceive herself  
“ by believing that it is kindness to exempt  
“ her girls from the exertions required in  
“ gaining a practical knowledge of this most  
“ valuable attainment. But my dear, dear  
“ Mrs. Sutton, I distress you. I disregarded

“ your wholesome counsel, and shall I rave  
“ in your presence, giving vent to agonies I  
“ deserve to feel?”

Mrs. Sutton with the utmost delicacy and tenderness endeavoured to appease the tortures endured by this conscience-stricken mourner; and to convince her it was yet possible to attempt atonement for the evils she had occasioned. Meanwhile Mr. Sutton urged and expedited the measures for arranging the pecuniary affairs of his unhappy friend; but the greatest difficulty still remained—to restore connubial harmony, and to excite mutual co-operation in leading the children to amendment. It is needless to repeat discussions that during several days related chiefly to peculiar grievances. Mr. Dalziel was more passive than his wife, who had never before used any effort to subdue her self-will: at length, embracing Mrs. Sutton, she vehemently besought her to forgive her obstinacy and perverseness. “Wipe away these

“ sympathetic tears, my dearest mistress,”  
said she, “ you might have saved yourself  
“ all this trouble by soothing me with com-  
“ monplace hollow consolations, and pal-  
“ liating my offences.”

“ God forbid! I should so far mislead  
“ you,” replied Mrs. Sutton. “ The inge-  
“ nuous frankness with which in many in-  
“ stances you have accused yourself, admits  
“ a well grounded hope of your retrieving  
“ these errors. The reversion of your for-  
“ tune, with Mr. Dalziel’s certain gains, will  
“ afford a clear income, larger than my hus-  
“ band and I possessed during some of the  
“ first years of our blessed union. Our en-  
“ joyments were limited to domestic and in-  
“ tellectual resources, and we never regretted  
“ the necessity of foregoing the gratifica-  
“ tions of vanity or luxurious indulgence.  
“ Mr. Sutton has secured constant employ-  
“ ment for Mr. Dalziel’s fine abilities; and  
“ pleasant occupation, with the influence of  
“ vigilant friendship, may wean him from



“ the habits we deplore. To preserve your  
“ infant children from improper examples,  
“ they shall be our inmates, till regular at-  
“ tendance at school, and careful instruction  
“ at home, shall have corrected the foibles of  
“ their elder brothers and sisters.” “ Most  
“ generous of benefactresses,” said Mrs.  
Dalziel, “ what a wretch am I to have re-  
“ sisted your gentle, but impressive remon-  
“ strances! I will curb my selfish passions,  
“ and strive to become all I ought to be:  
“ but, alas! though I have been nine times  
“ a mother, I know little of the actual per-  
“ formances that ought to accompany a  
“ name so sacred. The fashion of the day  
“ did indeed induce me to read every new  
“ publication on the subject; but I found  
“ none of them sufficiently explicit in re-  
“ gard to the treatment of early infancy.  
“ The details necessary in imparting a little  
“ knowledge to utter ignorance can hardly  
“ be conceived by well informed minds; yet  
“ unless they keep that essential considera-

tion in view, the intelligence they furnish  
" must be very incomplete." " Perhaps,"  
said Mrs. Sutton, " the precepts of a matron  
" who wrote professedly for the inexpe-  
" rienced parent, may be of use to you; but  
" I must premise, you will find in them no  
" entertainment, no graces—nothing but  
" plain utility." " Fastidiousness would be  
" criminal in me," replied Mrs. Dalziel,  
" who have felt the dire effects of incapacity  
" in superintending my babes. Disgusted  
" by committing many palpable mistakes, I  
" gave up the charge to their nurse. Hence-  
" forward I shall not take refuge in stifling  
" reflection, but I will labour to acquaint  
" myself, both with the theory and practice  
" of tuition. Miss Edgeworth, like Socrates,  
" has brought wisdom from ' heights sub-  
" lime,' to dwell familiarly with those who  
" are most in want of instruction; yet, after  
" perusing her lively and sensible communi-  
" cations, there were many particulars still  
" unexplained to a novice like me." " This  
" simple book of receipts and aphorisms will

“probably supply some of these,” said Mrs. Sutton, “but to give your ideas due expansion, accuracy, and elevation, you must again and again have recourse to ‘Practical Education,’ and other books, by the same ingenious authors; and you must also frequently consult the luminous pages of a Moore, a Hamilton, a West, a Barbould, and others, who have provided the ablest assistance for their sex in the discharge of maternal duties. As for the Nursery Guide I have ventured to mention, I refer you to it merely for elementary lessons; and the writer aspires only to obtain a place near the Dyches, and Dilworths in some avenue to the Republic of Letters.”



## APPENDIX.

*Copy of a Letter from MARMADUKE PAUL,  
BROWN, Schoolmaster, addressed to the  
Heritors of the Parish of \* \* \* \* \*.*

GENTLEMEN,

SINCE you do me the honour of requiring my sentiments respecting the surest means for establishing moral principles in conjunction with the necessary restraints, and the highest possible degree of comfort through the progress of education, I think it incumbent to state my opinions and practical experience at large, though at the risk of truism or superfluity in my communication: and I am fully assured you will prefer tedious minuteness to obscurity, in detailing particulars that have

all a relative importance, as tending to ensure the great and benevolent object of your inquiry—the most efficacious measures for guarding against pernicious or unprofitable hardships during the course of tuition. It seems unaccountable that under a constitution which fences round and vigilantly maintains every privilege of the lieges, so large a portion of life should be sacrificed to continual hazard of suffering from tyrannical despotism; and I hope to prove it is in no way necessary for the heirs of liberty to spend at least twice seven years under the absolute domination of persons vested with unbounded power to employ instruments of torture; and which, considering the inherent frailty of human nature, it is incredible should be always resorted to, with invariable moderation and lenity. A score or half hundred children, are peremptorily commanded to have the same capacity for equal performances; and it depends upon the self-controul and discretion of the master, whether the dull, the hitherto neglected, and giddy child, shall not be subjected to suffer-

ings which humanity would spare to inflict on criminals—and to which the less apt, or less attentive scholar is doomed, because he cannot keep pace with genius, and native, or carefully inculcated solidity of mind. But agitating, degrading, depressing punishments, cannot stimulate a child to achieve impossibilities; they deprive him of power to exert his talents; they debase and harden his heart, and force him, in self-defence, to artifice and falsehood. When the most efficient methods for influencing the human mind shall be investigated with the solicitude that ought to be excited for the happiness of childhood, and the integrity of riper years, the legislature of our country will be extended to school government; and the erect, generous, and independent spirit that ought to adorn Britons in manhood, will be cherished in infancy and youth. In the mean time, patrons of schools, and teachers who are conscientiously desirous of taking precautions against their own frailties, may institute judicial forms, and keep exact registers of offences, rebukes,

or penalties. From the boys of most unblemished conduct, fifteen may be chosen by lot as jurors for the day, and from that number the judge may likewise be installed by lot. Let admission to this ballot be represented as a most honourable distinction, and it will operate as a powerful incentive to circumspection in behaviour. The awful solemnity of a trial must deeply affect delinquents; and the constant example of a scrupulous administration of justice cannot fail to instil in all the pupils a clear and forcible perception of moral obligations. All the odium of punishing is removed from the teacher, who having the power to mitigate, or wholly to remit a sentence, has opportunity for being endeared to his charges. The consequence of bodily inflictions are often fatal—the good effects always doubtful; therefore I have never ruled by those terrors—but as some penalty must at times be necessary, I have had recourse to extra tasks, and found that sanction abundantly sufficient to enforce obedience. I have laid before you a plan of a place



of confinement for offenders; where the cells for each are separated by boarded partitions, but open to my view, by a high open railing. Transgressors being sent thither without invective or violence, are disposed by solitude and silence to all the reflection of which they are capable; and they, and the beholders, will be more durably impressed by deliberate proceedings, and by the suffering, or sight of quiet protracted penances, than by bodily pain, which they take pride in out-braving. Admiration of such fortitude, and natural sympathy for distress, destroys all the effect of chastisement, in deterring youth from folly — and the *bullying* reproof, of confinement in a black hole, or a flogging, far from being regarded as disgraceful, is made a theme for derision. The penalty I have long employed being calculated for exercising the understanding, without irritating the feelings, is held in reverence; and the teacher's influence is augmented, without impairing his authority. A man who is conscientiously desirous of guarding against his own frailties, will gladly

renounce a right of acting as judge, jury, and executioner. The strongest and worthiest mind is liable to be unhinged by perpetual conflicts with the faults of a multitudinous charge; and, surely, no one can be so prejudiced as to assert, that among a numerous class, there are no individuals whose passions are not more imperious than their sensibility to the claims of humanity and justice. Children are wonderfully quick-sighted, and every deviation from equity on the part of their master, perplexes their sense of right and wrong, and diminishes the power of rectitude over their hearts.

If we consider the corporeal and mental injury that may originate in inflaming, dejecting, indurating treatment—the time consumed by violent measures—and take into the account, that every moment spent in learning extra lessons is devoted to substantial improvement, we must admit the superior advantage of that system. The premiums which the liberality of my patrons has enabled me to

distribute, has been attended with results the most beneficial, more especially as the first prize is always awarded, in twelve gradations, to the children who throughout the year have incurred fewest rebukes or penances. The daily register of faults and sentences decides this point impartially, and that expedient has taught my young friends the pre-eminence of virtue over genius or learning. The second prize, which is also given in twelve gradations, to the children who have been fewest days absent from school, has prevented truant offences; and by giving a portion of voluntary work to be performed in school, as candidates for premiums, the pupils are excited to great efforts. Idleness and noise are generally caused by the cleverest scholars, who soon complete their tasks, and play tricks that take off the attention of the rest from their lessons; but my charges, whenever they have learnt the portions for the day, apply themselves to those given out as the chance for prizes. No penalty attends the omission of these last, except the forfeiture of places to

such as perform the undertaking, the materials for which can never be removed from the school till after the examination. The head of the first class keeps those materials in a locked press in the school. He gives them out to whoever is ready to commence his voluntary labour, and receives them before the school dismisses. He also keeps a register of all that has been done in that way through each day, which corroborates the general record kept by the head of the first class. Little children are not excluded from being candidates, as encouragements and incitements are at their age peculiarly requisite. As a private tutor, I led my pupils to habitual exertion and steady application, mercifully by ensuring them liberty, whenever their tasks were accomplished. We had stated hours for beginning our studies, but I never allotted them such portions as would deprive them of amusement, if they proceeded with diligence, and sure of getting out whenever they had finished, their attention was animated, voluntary and uniform. The surest means of mak-

ing good scholars, is to render their studies easy, cheerful, and comfortable.

I have the honor to be, &c.

A FRAGMENT. — \* \* \* \*

BEHOLD the mother with her infant near to the entrance of their lowly dwelling. A balmy evening has succeeded to the intense heat of a summer day. The frugal supper awaits the husbandman's return; and his industrious wife is teaching her little girl to step along the lawn. The family at the castle, knowing this to be the peasant's interval of leisure, have directed their walk towards the hamlet. The squire, accompanied by his elder children, proceeds to survey some improvements in an adjacent field. The lady and her youngest daughter, who can but imperfectly

articulate her admiration of the wild flowers she has collected, have accosted the village matron.

WHAT a fine child! how firmly she paces along! but will you accept a little advice from a mother, who has had at least six years more experience than you.

If you are pleased to take the trouble, madam, I shall be very thankful.

I WOULD then ask you not to allow your infant to tread on the bare ground in the evening; as it has been ascertained that bowel disorders, the croup, and all distempers proceeding from cold, have been occasioned in this way. I will send you a mat, which you must fix with wooden pins by the loops you will find on its edges, just as you lay out your linen to bleach. This fixture will prevent the child from tripping, and as evening is the time you can most conveniently attend her,

she may practise walking without danger: by and by she must have shoes.

I HUMBLY thank you, madam, and shall attend to your directions: but shoes would be very ill bestowed on this little fool. She would throw them into the fire. I can't tell how much she has destroyed; and I couldn't find in my heart to scold or whip her till the day before yesterday. Since then, I have whipt her three or four times every day, for the same fault, and yet she would do it over again this moment, if it were in her power.

You shock me beyond expression! whip such an infant three or four times a day! I am well convinced you desire to act the part of a good and dutiful mother, but you must excuse me for saying you mistake the means.

EVERY mother in all the country does the same. The obstinacy of human nature is not to be cured in any other way.

‘ I HAVE studied human nature in my own nursery, from the earliest age of my children, and I can with full certainty assure you it is not obstinacy makes a poor babe repeat a fault, but that she really has not comprehended why she was chastised, or through weakness of memory has forgotten it. I grant you it is very provoking to have things burnt, but it is easy to prevent it. Endeavour to recover an article the child has thrown into the fire, lay it, hot as it may be, within her reach: she will touch it, and may soon be made to understand the slight pain she has felt was owing to her own folly, and she sees the punishment proceeds from a fault committed by herself. You must take care not to let her hurt her tender fingers much; and, if necessary, repeat the same method to deter her, if she persists in throwing things into the flames. You tell me you could not find in your heart to rebuke your little ones till lately: now, I never pass the least offence, even in a young infant, without attempting with gentle, firm authority, to make her



sensible she has done wrong. This prevents bad habits, and gives her the custom of obeying me.

THERE is truth and reason in what you say, madam, and if you will have the goodness to direct me, I will do my best to govern my child without severity. I cried almost as bitterly as herself the first time I beat her, but every time I thought less and less of it.

It is thus the heart grows hardened: severer punishments are inflicted than can be deserved by an infant, and which do far greater harm than good.

ALAS! madam, that is true. People don't like to talk of harm that happens, *when no harm is intended*; but though I'm not old, I know where two children, one of them three, and another past ten years of age, fevered and died after a cruel threshing; and many are deaf from blows on the head.

I FEAR too many instances of a dropsy in the brain might be traced to the same cause. In short, it is a most deplorable fact, that some children have lost their lives by the immediate effect of violent agitation, and others have fallen the victims of lingering disease brought on by fatal, though well intended discipline. Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ and I are therefore determined to discountenance harsh usage to the utmost of our power, and never to shew the least favour to any of our people who treat their children in that savage manner.

BUT, madam, poor folks who must teach their children to labour, to be humble, and to obey, have much to do.

LET me ask you, what is your view in the different kinds of work you would have your children learn? I have already told you how mine are rendered obedient and submissive.

OUR girls must be servants, madam; and if we don't make them cleanly, diligent,

handy, and active, nobody will keep them in their places.

BUT they must also be honest and good tempered. They must speak truth, and, above all, when employed as nurses, they must be patient, tender, and faithful. Now, if you are a severe parent, your little ones will learn to impose on you long before they can have any precise knowledge of right or wrong. This will lead to lies, and to all the mean tricks which gradually tempt youth to baseness. Rough treatment hardens the heart both of the parent and the child, and were you to bring up your daughter in that manner, she would probably be cruel to the helpless innocent committed to her charge at a future period. I would even exhort you never to suffer her to be harsh to a brute. I have told you before, that kind usage will contribute to the welfare of your cattle. Teach your children this maxim—give them precept and example to make a moderate use of power, and you will secure for them the

best places in the nursery of the first characters in the country. Since the world has become more enlightened, that is to say, since wise and good men have taken pains to shew beyond any doubt that virtues are never to be forced upon the human mind, but must be embraced by free will; and since it is well understood that excess of fear makes children deceitful and mean spirited, all parents who can afford to have attendants for their children make a point of the nurse refraining from blows. Numbers have lost good places, and have been disgraced for ever, by contrivances to conceal a violation of this condition of their engagement; and it must therefore be evident, that by training your child with severity, you not only subject her needlessly to present discomfort, but you injure her prosperity as a servant. Explain her faults, so far as to shew you are displeased — even at the age when poor little creatures are made play-things, and so spoiled and self-willed as to be unmanageable in a short time. Let her not have the custom of negligence or

idleness as she grows up, and you will find no difficulty in making her a most expert servant. Indeed she will be more active, diligent, good tempered, and lively, as her spirit has not been broken, or her disposition soured by frequent suffering. She will be true and honest, as she never found any necessity for deceiving her parents; and, from love and gratitude, will treasure up your counsels in her heart, and obey in your absence as punctually as if you were watching all her motions.

I CAN feel, madam, the justice of all you have condescended to tell me, and I must be sensible it is only for good to me and mine you would have bestowed so much time and trouble. I seem to have got a new light; and, if needful, would ask, on my bended knees, a continuance of your advice.

No entreaty is necessary: it will give me the most sincere pleasure; and pray remember that every thing almost depends on curb-

ing your children in time. Never suppose it is too soon to teach them to do right, and to avoid doing wrong; for in that way bad customs take a deep root, and it is cruel to spoil your child when a baby, knowing she must endure much sorrow for it afterwards. Be not impatient, though you have to tell her many times the same thing. Perhaps on the twentieth or fortieth repetition, she can hardly understand or remember your commands. Persevere, however, mildly and steadily, and you will assuredly succeed at last. This must cause you a great deal of painful attention during the first years of your child's life; but the task will be always more easy, and your recompense, increasing through every period of her days.

Oh! madam, how many tears, how much distress might be spared to poor babes, if all had the advantage of knowing your opinions!

AND these tears and distresses tend to greater evils, which we must endeavour to

prevent. Nothing can be done to good purpose without a regular plan; and so Mr. — and I have arranged some maxims to direct the care of infancy, both in respect to health and morals. We shall send a copy to each family in our neighbourhood, and I shall call frequently to explain any particular that may not be fully understood. Hitherto Mr. — has not been remiss in affording information of all useful improvements in agriculture to his farmers, and I have communicated my little stock of intelligence regarding the dairy, calves, pigs, and poultry; but we reproach ourselves for delaying our assistance in a concern of infinitely greater importance—the preservation and instruction of your children.





## THE NURSERY REFORMER.

[Extracted from La Belle Assemblée.]

MR. EDITOR,

YOUR very laudable purpose in making your admired miscellany beneficial, as it is entertaining and elegant, has mingled culinary and domestic affairs with scientific research and literary information; and the same motive, it is hoped, may recommend the labours of the Nursery Reformer, who offers her services on subjects of much superior magnitude. With high esteem for the Editor of a work which has essentially promoted female improvement, I am a faithful coadjutrix.—

'It is the boast and the privilege of the present day, that productions from the press have been diversified almost to infinity; inso-much, that persons of all descriptions may find books adapted to their tastes, capacities, and pursuits. But, amidst the multiplicity of publications, one topic has been neglected: I mean the treatment of infancy, as it combines appropriate attentions to the animal and intellectual endowments to be cherished, invigorated, and matured by skilful management. The corporeal, moral, and mental blessings of succeeding years may be unalterably influenced by the circumstances in which an infant has been placed, and the examples with which he may have been conversant; and, to regulate these, demands no mean attainments. Yet there are few practical treatises to assist the millions who enter on the discharge of that difficult and important duty, equally destitute of theoretic knowledge or experience. It is the humble, but decided opinion of the Nursery Reformer, that a work so highly esteemed, and extensively

circulated, as *La Belle Assemblée*, may confer the most valuable benefits on mankind, by diffusing enlarged and correct ideas of maternal offices; and it cannot derogate from the dignity of its polished pages, nor be unacceptable to the enlightened, philanthropic, and exalted personages who form the bulk of the readers, to grant admission to suggestions which may serve as antidotes, or “healing unction,” to the most deplorable species of human misery. If the frequency of these ills shall be disputed, it is immaterial to establish that position. Allowing that among one hundred, or one thousand infants, all except one may be supposed to enjoy the advantage of discriminating care in respect to health, to the exercise of his perceptions, and the infusion of pious and moral predilections, still it deeply concerns every mother to ascertain beyond the possibility of doubt, that the unhappy exception is not to be found in her own family. To the vain, the superficial, and the selfish, it may be terribly revolting to suppose there can be deficiency or error in their

measures; but cultivated and ingenuous minds are above the puerile assumption of infallibility, and they will honour the following sections with a candid consideration. As the only avenue to amendment is to conciliate the favour of those who stand in need of admonition, I would gladly offer it under the most agreeable form. To the votaries of amusement a little private anecdote may be more welcome than edifying discussions; and in gratifying their curiosity I hope to interest their feelings for the success of my didactic lucubrations. My tale is simple, but as it discloses some of the baneful consequences of nursery errors, a more animated application must be excited in the use of means by which these errors may be avoided.

It was the only offspring of a sincerely Christian pair, whose disinterested affection never interfered with my advancement in the paths of learning or virtue, and in imbuing my heart with the principles of religion and morality; their consistent example gave effi-

cacy to every précept. Being sole heiress of their large possessions, all the embellishments of a splendid and fashionable education were superadded, and at the age of three-and-twenty, when I gave my hand to a gentleman of suitable condition, I was reckoned, for accomplishments and intelligence, the paragon of our country. The sequel of my story will acquit me of vanity in this display of my juvenile perfections. The effulgence of light in which I have studied to place them, is intended to give effect to the sad contrast soon to appear through my deficiency in particulars unspeakably more valuable in connubial life—a capacity for infantine management. Would to God! that any force of language I may be able to employ, might forewarn my sex of the perplexities and misfortunes inevitable to ignorance in such cases. Oh! that in colouring, vivid as my sensations, I could delineate the pangs of apprehension with which I beheld my first-born at the mercy of attendants in whom I could place no confidence; yet incapable of directing their pro-

ceedings, I had no alternative but acquiescence. Alas! these indefinite forebodings were but the anticipation of real horrors!—horrors which some exertions on my part might have prevented, and though I must ever deplore my indolent credulity, my compunction and grief are mitigated in recollecting the efforts I made to qualify myself for parental duties.

I sought information from the most approved authors, but when I endeavoured to reduce a plausible theory into practice, I found many chasms in the rules prescribed, which could only be filled up by some previous acquaintance with the treatment of children. I hoped to extract these minutia from the conversation of matrons, but their opinions were so contradictory, and as they quoted only the authority of nurses and gossips in support of their several systems, I concluded it must be safest to prefer the sagacity and experience of my own domestics, for I had no certainty of improving their methods by the alterations proposed to me.

At length I engaged a person who produced the most satisfactory testimonials of her worth and ability; and her time of life and deportment removed all doubt of her being more fit than myself for the entire charge of my infant.

ABOUT this time, too, Mr. Villars was invited, as an independent gentleman, to come forward in opposition to a ministerial candidate for representing the shire. The canvass was carried on with ardour; and solicitude for my nursery concerns was absorbed in political manœuvres, and in parties of pleasure contrived for assisting our Machiavelian expedients. The election was decided in favour of my husband, who in many instances, by his talents and probity, essentially served the local interests of his constituents; and, whilst he was engrossed by parliamentary attendance, all my hours were devoted to scenes of gaiety. From successive amusements I was recalled by the death of my child; and as I wept over his emaciated remains, my heart

smote me for absence from his bed of sickness, and I resolved no longer to suffer giddy associates to warp my better sensibilities and judgment into folly, nor could all their blandishments draw me back to the vortex of dissipation. Home was now the centre of my satisfactions and engagements; and I was every thing there but a wise and duteous mother. The birth of another son obliterated all traces of regret for the deceased, and I became ambitious for notability in household economy, besides co-operating with Mr. Villars in directing the manifold improvements carrying forward in our estates. We saw much company, and in fine weather I rose early, settled domestic matters for the day, and after breakfast led our guests to survey the works in our gardens, our sylvan plantations, our agricultural experiments, or buildings. The evenings were spent in reading or musical parties, and once in the week we had a ball for our youthful friends, or rather for all the gay nymphs and swains in the country, who repaired to us from the distance



of many miles. How can I endure to reflect, that whilst I was presiding in these mirthful scenes, my infants were neglected, abused, and, through the consequences of ill treatment, murdered.

THE only atonement I can make, is by holding up my errors to public notice—to become instrumental in guarding or delivering other heirs of affluence from similar distresses. On these heads I shall be explicit hereafter; but, whilst I wait the most proper time for introducing the subject, numberless babes may be in a state of suffering. I shall, therefore, seize this occasion to communicate the advice of a medical gentleman, not less eminent for philanthropy than for uncommon success in the prevention and cure of disease. He often warned his patients in the higher sphere, that many infants fall victims to artificial means for procuring sleep, and through deficiency of nourishment. The first, he said, was of all the mal-practices of nurses the most difficult to detect or to obviate.

Frequent visits to the nursery, at no fixed periods, was the surest preventive; for an attendant would hardly venture to give spiritous or vinous draughts, or to administer sirup of poppies or landanum to her charge, when she must be continually uncertain of the minute that his attentive parent would take him in her arms, and discover the effluvia of these slow poisons. To ensure sufficient aliment for their babes, he enjoined all mothers, with their own hand, to present to them, at the interval of two hours, some ass's, goat's, or cow's milk, mixed with two-thirds, one half, or one-third, of boiled water, according to the age and vigour of the infant; it is almost superfluous to add, that the milk requires to be more diluted for a young or delicate child. Ass's milk is to be preferred.

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THE informing spirit of all Mr. Villars's plans was to promote the prosperity and comfort of the villagers. Father of mercies! accept the tardy penitence of thy weak

erring creature. I believed myself an object of thy holy favour in devoting so much expense and time to ensure the happiness of our dependents, whilst the tender babes, who had a nearer claim on my exertions, were neglected. May all who read these lines avoid my fault, and escape the poignant self-reproach which preys upon my spirit. • Laudable and useful occupations become snares when they encroach upon positive duties; and by a judicious distribution of time I might have done full justice to my children, without relinquishing the pursuits in which I took so much pride and pleasure. Mr. Villars and myself have frequently laid aside a favourite author, and I have spoiled a fine landscape in hurrying to accompany him some miles to relieve the sick or unhappy, though I never bestowed a thought to guard against the privations and hardships endured under the same roof, by defenceless beings whom Providence had placed under my immediate and sole protection. To my amiable partner no blame is to be imputed. Had the

nursery been his province, his capacious and sound understanding would have adverted to all that could be of advantage to our children; or if he had suspected any omission on my part, his candour, his refined affection, would have directed my attention to it without wounding my delicacy. It was his delight to raise me nearer to a level with himself by gently counteracting my foibles, and imparting a portion of the gifts with which his exalted mind was so richly replenished. His scientific and literary acquirements were scarcely inferior to any of his cotemporaries; and, guided and sustained by him, I trod on classic and philosophic ground. Ah! he never apprehended, nor did I suppose, that the library, the pencil, and the powers of harmony, were depriving our infants of the common blessings which the little cottager, amidst rags and poverty, enjoys through the watchful tenderness of his mother.

WHEN with secret self-complacency I have compared myself to neighbours who spent

their days at the toilet and card table; when I contemplated the neatness and regularity which enhanced the splendour of our establishment; when I have looked over my clear and punctual accounts, and applied to charitable uses the savings of well-ordered frugality; when I have listened to the blessings of him who was ready to perish, restored to competence by my bounty, and heard encomiums on my versatile genius, which embraced all objects—Oh that some friendly voice had apprised me how vainly I arrogated these high deserts, stained and blotted by the tears of my infants—my infants given up to an attendant whose specious manners deceived me into a belief that her solicitude for their welfare was as sincere as my own; and though I lost five lovely innocents under her charge, I never entertained a doubt of her fidelity. The first four did not survive a year; but the fifth, though always delicate, was spared to us above two years. Enchanting prattler! close twisted round the fibres of his father's heart—when the hand of death tore

him from us; that expansive, generous feeling heart seemed lacerated beyond remedy. The rare precocity of my dear boy's intellect had obtained from me more notice than any of his predecessors; but fears for my husband's health, divided my thoughts, and consequently abated my distress for the loss of my child.

MR. VILLARS no longer had spirits or constitution adequate to the toilsome discharge of legislative duties, and we resolved to seek in travelling to foreign countries, some oblivion of our woe. I had not passed the age that allows maternal hope; but all-righteous Providence chastised my former thanklessness and inattention, by withholding the blessing so importunately desired during the lapse of eight years.

WHEN we returned from the continent, we made the tour of Great Britain, remaining several weeks with an uncle who resided near Canterbury. At his house I accidentally dis-

covered the unworthiness of the nurse on whose attachment to me and mine I had so firmly relied. Let mothers tremble for the consequences of such supine confidence; and let them take unceasing precautions against the use of soporifics and other devices of unprincipled attendants. I propose hereafter to give a full narrative of all I learnt concerning my children's fate..

LADY HARRIS, without any idea that I was the person alluded to, told the dismal tale. Then all the infatuation, all the guilt of negligence sunk upon my soul; and though I had sufficient fortitude to conceal the cause from Mr. Villars, whose delicate frame was unequal to sustain the shock, I passed many days on the bed of anguish. During my illness Lady Harris attended me with unwearied kindness, and insisted we should change the scene to Sir James's seat in Essex.

SIR JAMES and Mr. Villars were of kindred

minds. My partiality for Lady Harris was founded in esteem and gratitude; and with much pleasure we accepted her invitation. We were received with every mark of cordial regard, and found their manner of living bore a striking resemblance to the entertainments and occupations of our happier days; but with the same taste for the fine arts, and superior attainments in literature, with uniform inspection of her family arrangements, Lady Harris was an exemplary mother. The strength of her judgment, and an exquisite sense of propriety, was conspicuous in her house. She was notable without ostentatious activity; and no servile exactitude, no finical punctuality, no superfluous nicety encroached on the ease and freedom of the guests. Though her children were objects of unremitting care, her quiet visits to the nursery never interfered with polite attention to her friends. The two elder girls passed the time with us; and, with the little ones, were our companions out of doors. And in the evenings also, these blooming lively creatures diverted us in the drawing-



room, where the superintendence of their elder sisters prevented them from giving any disagreeable interruption to our conversation. Throughout them all there was a certain air of joyous self-possession, which to me, who have an insuperable horror against painful restraint, as an enemy to ingenuousness and candour, was a sure earnest of open and amiable dispositions. But this axiom, so just and beneficial when rightly applied, I abused into a pretext for weak and improper indulgence of my boy, who was born the following year, five months after the birth of Lady Harris's first son.

I WROTE to this liberal-minded friend, expressing my insurmountable dread of mercenary attendance, and she had the goodness to propose bringing her infant, whom she was nursing, and to pass the summer with us. Before her departure, by precept and example, she qualified me to take the lead in all that might be essential to my child's health. Oh, that I had been equally enlightened and

strenuous in the regulation of his impetuous passions. He grew up vigorous in person and mind; but with a noble exterior, and brilliant abilities, he has often wrung the hearts of his parents, who, too late, were made sensible that in giving licence to his vehement self-will, we had destroyed at once his happiness and our own.

AUSTERITY and rigour are fatal to the integrity of too sensitive or timid minds; but false tenderness is an extreme to be anxiously deprecated. The parent who shrinks from giving momentary pain in disappointing and suppressing the wayward humours of infancy, prepares for herself many fruitless struggles, when the pride and tenaciousness of an after period will resist endeavours to correct faults that might have been prevented, or soon amended by timely care. Children who have not learned to govern their own feelings, and to spare the feelings of others, will suffer more from misconduct as they grow up, than

through the most rigid self-denials exacted by wise and good-tempered rulers.

My unbounded fondness could deny no wish, however unseasonable, when Henry was an infant, and in a short time he would take no denial to the most hazardous or culpable desires. He had but entered his nineteenth year, when a thirst for martial glory steeled his bosom against the anguish of his father, whose frequent indispositions ought to have awakened some tenderness. For my part, I had never opposed a wish expressed by my soul's idol, and I was passive, though very miserable.

He obtained a commission, and an allowance suitable to the heir of an immense fortune. He was negligent in writing, but when he did gratify us with a letter, the joy of his welfare, and the fascinating style of his correspondence, dispelled all resentment for delays. He had not been many months

with his regiment when his profuse liberality involved him in embarrassments, from which his father extricated him without one word of upbraiding, but with friendly remonstrances that must have affected a mind less volatile.

THESE follies being again and again repeated, Mr. Villars made a settlement, limiting Henry to four thousand pounds per annum, and bequeathing the residue of his fortune to my disposal.

HIS imprudent intimacies were soon dissolved by flagrant proofs of ingratitude in his companions; yet the disappointment did not make Henry more distrustful of his own judgment, and he plunged into an engagement which would terminate only with life. Captivated by the beauty and accomplishments of a girl not sixteen, he fell into the toils of her artful uncle, who promoted their journey to Scotland, and made her his wife. Had he consulted us, we would not have

thwarted his inclination, though we might have prevailed with him to postpone the nuptials till both parties had more experience; but the first intimation was by a letter from the bride, entreating our blessing.

How shall I go on to say that this undutiful act of our son hurried one parent to the grave, and made the other repine she was denied an immediate refuge there. The letter from our daughter-in-law was addressed to Mr. Villars; the violence of his emotion occasioned the rupture of a blood vessel in his lungs, and I was left an opulent but inconsolable widow. By a sudden blow I was deprived of the endearing companion of all my joys and inquietudes; and my son, who ought to have been my comforter, was the unhappy cause of my irremediable calamity. Without actual experience of my feelings, who can conceive my distraction! and when my mind sunk at length into a gloomy calm, the sense of wretchedness was unabated. As all prospect

of enjoyment in this life was destroyed, my hopes and wishes were impelled towards the eternal abode of my best beloved. I looked back on my past life as a delightful dream, from which I had awoke to agonizing realities. I looked forward, and this inquiry struck upon my soul with an awful sense of misspent time. What had I done in preparation for the inevitable hour of final retribution? Though my life was unpolluted by sordid or scandalous vices, conscience told me, that, educated under pious and moral restrictions, and never exposed to temptation, I had no merit in exemption from crimes. I resolved to increase my practice of charity, which covereth a multitude of sins; and in devoting my ample income to assist the unfortunate, my own sufferings were alleviated. From the torpor of softened affliction I was roused by a letter in my son's hand-writing. He had made frequent inquiries for me through Miss Merrague, but said he would not presume to address them to myself. "He now lamented, in the most pathetic strain," the

melancholy event he had unintentionally occasioned; execrated himself as a parricide, and finished the climax of a sentence which no human heart would have withstood, by informing me that his regiment was ordered on foreign service, that he could not depart without imploring forgiveness; and that he would willingly expiate his guilt by shedding the vital current which had proved so degenerate.

I INSTANTLY ordered a carriage, and had an interview with my still dear Henry, at a sea-port, where he waited a fair wind to convey the battalion to Spain. I shall not attempt to describe the agonies of our meeting, or of our separation. I consented to receive his wife into my protection, and with streaming eyes was pronouncing over them a solemn pardon and benediction, when the drums beat to assemble the troops for embarkation. Starting from the attitude of submission, my son said in a smothered voice, that as the

Representative of the best of men, and most tender of mothers, he hoped I would consider a grand-child a pledge of amity between me and his disconsolate Hilaria. She fainted in my arms as he went out; and more like an immovable statue, than a living support, I held her in my arms.

I RETURNED home almost petrified by the accumulation of sorrows. My never-failing friend, Lady Harris, who had hastened to me in the first dreary season of my widowhood, now came again to soothe me in absence of the being who was still the dearest to me of all beneath the canopy of heaven. When I recollected with what address she managed her conversation to divert my reflections from their mournful course, and to suggest some instructive considerations to the youthful matron, I have no words to express my thankfulness to the author of every good and perfect gift, that such a comforter has been bestowed on me.



I WISHED Hilaria to perform the actual duties of a nurse, but she made so many stipulations to secure repose and amusement for herself, that I despaired of compromising matters. Lady Harris dissuaded me from importunity, and recommended the wife of one of my villagers, who having had three children, her milk must have a more equal flow; and as she served with a lady who was remarkable for attention to her nursery, it was probable Mrs. Collett would be well acquainted with the care of children.

BUT to bring the question to issue, it was agreed we should try to engage my daughter-in-law's attention to a simple work already mentioned, which Lady Harris had brought for my perusal, hoping that the essay on the instruction of the poor, which concludes the last volume, by giving a new impetus to my activity, might help my mind to overcome dejection.

THE first evening we were alone, Lady

Harris said she had a strong desire to compare her own opinions and ways some twenty or thirty years ago, with those recommended by a writer who had descended to the minutiae of infantine management, in a late publication. "And as you, my old friend," said her ladyship, "know my proceedings in the days of yore, you will help me to observe where they coincide, and where they dissent from modern practices; and perhaps the junior Mrs. Villars may find some maxims deserving her approbation."

LADY HARRIS read aloud; but in the nineteenth page Hilaria interrupted her, requesting she would repeat the sentence.—"We would not require ladies to perform menial services, but we would entreat them to minute inspection of their infants; and if once induced to this attention, they will be convinced it is indispensable."

"WHAT does this antiquated sermonizer

mean?" said Hilaria; "are ladies to be slaves to their children?"

"SHE wishes no more," replied Lady Harris, "in behalf of children, than is freely and profusely given to adopted favourites of an inferior order. I must tell you, Mrs. Villars, how I learned to perform maternal offices. Though allied to nobility I was left a portionless orphan at the age of sixteen, but I had received an education at once elegant and solid, through the care of my good parents. Their fortune was ruined by the failure of a banking-house; and whether the shock hastened the death of my mother is uncertain. She had been long ailing, and did not survive our misfortunes three months. My father dragged on a woeful existence two years; and in all that time his sisters, Lady L\_\_\_\_\_ and Lady F\_\_\_\_\_, seldom condescended to inquire for us. As he held a post under government, his income ceased with his life; and his savings since the total

loss of his property, were too inconsiderable for the most moderate supply of necessaries, when I was left alone in the world. I therefore wrote to my aunts, that I felt it my duty to take no important step without consulting them; and begged they would use their influence to procure me a situation as a governess. To this they gave a decided negative; but offered me an asylum in their families by turns.

“THOUGH I suffered all the mortifications of dependence, I ought to be grateful for their protection, for they retained for me a rank which introduced me to Sir James Harris’s notice. But this is foreign to the purpose. Lady L.—— had three children, who died in infancy, and my lord and her ladyship gave up their hearts to the lower creation. My lord had the finest horses and hounds in the country; her ladyship had the most beautiful birds and the most rare exotics, and she had also two lap-dogs, whose form and colour were extolled by all the visitors.

“ WHEN I went to my aunt, Lady F——s, I could not help remarking, that her assiduity in respect to the nursery, bore no comparison to Lady L——’s unwearied diligence to procure any advantage for the aviary and greenhouse. And the latter carried about her darlings Clio and Euphrosyne, much oftener than the former deigned to take her lovely twins in her arms. Lord L—— had a subterranean communication with the edifices that sheltered the objects of his solicitude; and a passage of the same kind led to the receptacles for her ladyship’s songsters and plants, for the convenience of access in bad weather, or at late hours; but I never heard of nocturnal visits being paid to her children by Lady F——.

“ How many ways do frail mortals pervert good into evil? Lady F—— was an enthusiast in religion, and imagined she was serving the blessed Creator in closet exercises, and following popular preachers, whilst she left four charming little ones, without care or instruc-

tion. Her common phrase was, when his lordship remonstrated on her neglect—‘she remembered the poor things in her prayers, and left them to Providence.’—‘The Almighty enjoins us to use the means his goodness has provided,’ retorted his lordship, ‘we must take care of our children’s constitutions, if we wish them to be healthy; and we must give them instruction if we hope for comfort in their virtues.’—‘My lord, my lord, this is the doctrine of dead works. I have faith in the mercies of the most High, and he will be a parent to my children.’—I must tell you how little consistency my poor aunt preserved in her sentiments—she heard that one of her favourite orators had been thrown from his horse, and was confined at a paltry inn, twelve miles from the castle. She ordered a litter to convey him there, and went herself to see every proper means should be employed in his removal.

“WHEN she told his lordship her intention, ‘My lady,’ said he, ‘might it not be more

worthy of your *faith* to pray for the honest clergyman, and to *trust to Providence*? She made no reply, but set out to *use the means* which, in respect to her infants, she reprobated as dead works.

“ A RESPECTABLE widow superintended the nursery. She had suckled the eldest child; and at her husband's death, Lord L\_\_\_\_\_ took her and her two children into the house, as he had reason to believe she would be tender and attentive to his forsaken babes, and he assisted her in forming their minds. He soon taught me to be of some service in that way; and never have I forgotten a remark he made when talking of further improvements recently made upon Lord L\_\_\_\_\_’s stables.— ‘ Well, Euphemia,’ said he, looking round upon his children, who were sitting with us in an arbour of their own play ground, ‘ the exertions made by Lord and Lady L\_\_\_\_\_ may teach us with what vigilance we ought to superintend these gems of far surpassing

worth. If so much care is necessary to the vegetable or irrational species, how unremitting should be our attention to creatures whose goodly frame is but the casket in which is deposited a precious gem to be gradually polished into full value and lustre."

"THIS is all fine talking," said Hilaria, "but if the nurse was such a sagacious, well-disposed person, why teaze her with interference?"

"I WILL read my answer just in the next sentence to that in which I was interrupted," said Lady Harris. "All mere mortals are liable to errors and negligences; and a check upon these may save children from the dreadful miseries of a distempered body, and a corrupted heart."

"ALL this is said," interrupted Hilaria, "to give the writer some room for declamation."



“HEAR me a little further,” said Lady Harris, continuing to read.—“The bills of mortality throughout the British empire, evince, by the most authentic documents, that of the infants born into the world, one-third are doomed to perish within the first month, and scarcely one half attain the age of puberty; whilst every newspaper gives instances of crimes and indiscretions that add pungency to natural calamities in all conditions.”—These facts speak for themselves, more forcibly than all the rhetorical sentences that can be put together, and surely the exertion of a few months or years would be well bestowed to prevent the least evil they include.”

“BUT how comes it,” rejoined Hilaria, “that so many ladies bring up fine families, and leave them to the nurses at least for two years? There is our neighbour, Lady M——, she has five children, very promising creatures.”

I now put in a word.—“Lady M—— had a good aunt, who died very lately; she took great delight in superintending the nursery.”

“WELL,” said Hilaria, “Lady M—— must have had many good lessons from her, and I take her ladyship for my model.”

WHEN I had the happiness of receiving a grandson to my bosom, it seemed as if my husband and my son were restored to me, and my earthly hopes were revived. Lady Harris left us in ten days after its birth. Hilaria shewed the utmost fondness for her child, but took no trouble in its behalf. An incident produced a change in her manner which I had despaired of effecting. I received a note from Lord M——, announcing that his little girl, a week younger than our boy, had died in convulsions. Hilaria turned pale, and was more thoughtful than usual all the afternoon. The servant who brought this note had mentioned to ours, that the nurse was

blamed for the child's death. Of this Hilaria informed me when she returned from the nursery after tea, and I missed the volumes Lady Harris had given me. In less than a week Hilaria brought them back to the parlour, saying, "I ought not to withhold from you, my dear Madam, the satisfaction of knowing I am a thorough convert to the maxims I disputed when Lady Harris was here; and henceforward I shall endeavour to atone for my obstinacy."

SINCE I have been deprived of the object to whom my fondest esteem was consecrated, I have never left my retreat but to obey the call of duty: and, since the birth of my grandson, I have been furnished with new objections to quit my home; but seeing sufficient grounds for relying upon Hilaria's attention to her child, and to convince me his nurse discharged her part from affectionate and conscientious motives, I determined to pass a few weeks with my venerable aunt, Lady S——, who, during four years, has been

confined to her chair by the gradual decay of her loco-motive powers. I only waited Miss Montague's convenience to take up her abode here, as a companion to my daughter-in-law, when an express from Rose Vale demanded my immediate presence there, on account of Mrs. Brown's alarming illness. The history of this singularly valuable person will be seen in her own words, in the proper place; but at present I shall avoid all digression, and proceed to delineate the affecting and instructive death-bed scene I have recently witnessed; and I earnestly hope the description may stimulate heads of families to bestow upon their dependents the means of intellectual improvement, and encourage these dependents to dignify their menial situation by the respectability inseparable from genuine worth. I set out for Rose Vale without delay, and arrived the following morning before breakfast. The hour of two had just struck upon the great hall clock, when I was informed my aunt had been wheeled into Mrs. Brown's chamber, and wished to see me. I perceived

a sad alteration in the features of the aged invalid; but her eyes beamed with serene intelligence. A hectic glow coloured her cheeks; and, as she pressed my hand between her burning palms, I discerned symptoms of fatal malady. But the piety of the dying person forbade me to view with sorrow her near approach to blessedness and glory. I could not shed a tear; and though my aunt was losing the companion of her dreary hours, she seemed to be inspired with sentiments superior to selfish grief. We had sat more than a quarter of an hour, when Mrs. Brown said, "I know I am dying; but it is a gentle call which summons me to throw off the poor remains of mortality. I have been retracing the steps by which I was raised above the ignorance of my forefathers; and, O! that the millions who live and die, with hardly any perception, of their own mental excellencies, or regard to their own immortal destination, could, like me, be taught to respect themselves. Though to be rich or great is denied to them by the decrees of nature,

erring Providence, their Christian graces and innate understanding is not insuperably circumscribed by the narrowness of their outward possessions. In their love to God and man, in rectitude towards their fellow-creatures, temperance and self-denial, in the power of seeking entertainment and enjoyment within themselves, they may keep pace with the most prosperous; and, O! how ennobling to human nature is true Christianity. These are blessings which the highest orders of society are desirous to impart to the lowest. In the most enlightened ages of Pagan philosophy, the instruction of the poor was totally disregarded, and no higher principle than fear actuated their conduct; but in our happy land, the sacred personage who fills the throne, and the most excellent characters that surround the seat of royalty, far from spurning the generous emulation of a poor labourer who *would*, and who successfully *may strive* to imitate their virtues, they would be liberally disposed, to contribute their aid in raising his moral worth to the level of their

own. On this basis I rest my last request to my honoured benefactress. ' I never have troubled your ladyship by expressing the overflowing gratitude which filled my heart, sensible that the delicate condescension with which I was treated, far transcended my poor professions."

" My excellent friend," said Lady S., " you gave me proofs of affection superior to all professions, and I have become not only happier, but wiser and better, by an interchange of thought with you. But this is no time for retrospections: I will not again interrupt your communications."

MRS. BROWN raised my aunt's hand to her lips, and proceeded to say, " I have been rescued from indigence: I have had my mind imbued with knowledge, of which my progenitors never enjoyed one glimpse; but, praised be God, I have seldom been tempted to forget my origin, and, at this moment, the distress of my compeers presses heavily upon

my spirit. Since I heard that the crop has again failed in the Highlands, that, injured in a green state by frost, it was afterwards drenched by long continued rains, and in some places inundated by rivers, and that more than one half lies under snow upon the fields, though the first months of winter are far advanced; I have very painfully ruminated upon the probable consequences to extensive districts, where the inhabitants, with the hardy independence of spirit characteristic of their mountainous regions, brave every difficulty in supporting their families, yet cannot earn the most scanty subsistence. During several months there must be frequent and long interruptions to handicraft and agricultural occupations; and the spinning-wheel too, which, in former times, afforded a beneficial resource to the female inmates of a cottage, now finds little encouragement. How then can it be possible for a labourer, who depends entirely upon daily gains, to supply with the necessities of life the beings who look up to him for maintenance? In the failure of a crop the



proprietors suffer so severely, that it would be unreasonable to expect great exertions in behalf of their people. I have indeed known some landlords in the Highlands to make astonishing sacrifices of private convenience, to purchase meal for the poor in times of scarcity; but gentlemen who have growing families, and have accumulated sums to provide for younger children, cannot, in justice to them, indulge their charitable feelings to a great extent. Let this plead my excuse for a proposal which has long dwelt upon my mind; and as an expedient for relieving calamity has occurred to me, it would be a criminal selfishness to suppress the idea from a fear of seeming ostentatious or presuming. Why should the reluctance excited by pride or timidity, in hazarding misconstructions, deter me from endeavouring to become the humble instrument for mitigating real and dreadful evils. The attempt can injure no mortal, and it may excite the ready benignity of the wise and the good; who, if they could form any idea of the living pictures of misery

I beheld in the Highlands in the years 1782 and 1800, and which, it is to be feared, will be seen in deeper colouring before another harvest shall ripen in our isle, these philanthropists would sanction an effort, however feeble, to combine moral instruction with a supply of necessary food, to the most useful, the most suffering class of their fellow-subjects. Since the middle of autumn I have foreseen this exigency, and turned my attention to the revisal of my dear husband's manuscript, of which your ladyship has been pleased more than once to speak favourably, as calculated to *inform the conduct of the lower classes with correct and vivifying principles*. My own little work, entitled *The Mother and Nurse's Friend*, I have looked over, and I wish to have both these published by subscription for instituting a permanent fund to purchase grain. I know grain will keep several years in a dry situation, and, when wanted, it may be made into meal, to be sold at a moderate price to the labouring poor in the time of scarcity. Dare I indulge

the romantic hope, that this charity shall be founded by productions from the pen of Marmaduke Brown and his plebeian wife? Yet, if the fund could have a commencement, there are many individuals exalted in rank, fortune, and intellect, who would enrich it by donations and bequests. Many noble and philanthropic institutions adorn our land; but none of them can surpass, and few can equal in utility, a resource for delivering from famine a class of people whose incessant industry, and inoffensive manners, give them the strongest claim to assistance. I have not limited my bequest to any part of the British empire. I wish I could diffuse its benefits over the universe; but, all I can do, or attempt, I leave to your regulation, my dear Lady S——, and to Mrs. Villars, or whomsoever you shall appoint. I would not fetter the superior judgment of those who may deign to act for me, except that I beg the patronage of the Earl of M—— may be humbly solicited. My husband served under his Lordship in America, and he enthusiastically

revered him as a true Christian hero; who, undaunted in the field of danger, was yet more to be loved and honoured for the unobtrusive virtues that flow from self subjugation. In his own person his lordship unites the interests of the three kingdoms; and if the subscription shall be to any amount, his justice will impartially determine the proportions according to the most urgent necessity of the countries."

Mrs. Brown's voice at times sunk so low that we could scarcely hear the sentences she articulated, and she frequently slumbered for some minutes. The thirst attendant on a hectic fever must be allayed, and thus many long pauses took place; and it is but candid to inform the reader, that our attention was so tenderly fixed upon the speaker, as to make it impossible to give a distinct repetition of her words, had we not found in writing the address she intended to make to me by letter, if not prevented by the sudden attack of an inflammation in her chest. When she

awoke from a troubled sleep, she made a sign to me to come nearer, and in broken accents, she said:—"The letters written to my daughters, and the nursery tales, I promised long ago they should have to publish for their own behalf, to apply the profits in purchasing books. As to the two other manuscripts, the only chance for a wide circulation of the maxims they afford, is to devote them to the purpose I have already explained. If printed for private views they would be little noticed, and must, of course come to no considerable pecuniary advantage; but, if bequeathed for a charitable purpose, they may pass into many hands, and prevent fatal errors in the management or tuition of infancy." She was again silent for near an hour; but having taken a little refreshment, declared herself much easier. "My dear Mrs. Villars," she said, "at this awful crisis I ought to speak without reserve; and you will, I know, forgive me for saying, that I consider the publication of the *Mother and Nurse's Friend* as an essential assistant to your *Nursery Reformer*, from

which I expect advantages incalculable. Reformation in the nursery is the grand desideratum for augmenting individual, domestic, and social felicity, by preventing bad habits, and giving to Christian ethics the earliest possession of the heart; but these blessed effects must operate, not alone in the higher spheres, it will be not less necessary to teach mothers, in the lowest station, the method for preserving the health of their babes, for exciting their best feelings, and by engaging their affections and understanding in the dawn of reason, to imbibe and to establish principles of integrity and benevolence. The season of childhood and youth, passed under the parental roof, is, in fact, a girl's apprenticeship, to the duties of a nurse; and as children in the most exalted ranks receive their first impressions chiefly from their nurse, it is the interest of the great and affluent to take effectual measures for qualifying the meanest to give good example in the care and government of their families. One advantage will certainly attend my humble

pages. The narrow-minded, the self-sufficient, and unfeeling, all who are most in want of instruction, will be more apt to take a hint from a work which is skimmed over, to see what has been said to others, than if the lesson should be addressed to themselves."

"WILL you allow me," said I, "to send your manuscripts to the editor of *La Belle Assemblée*?"

"Most willingly, and I thank you for the suggestion. If the editor will condescend to admit the whole, or a part, into that repository of elegant and edifying variety, I hope it may promote the object of my ardent wishes. The public has a right to inquire, and to be satisfied, that the sentiments I wish to disseminate are calculated for raising the standard of morals in the community."

“THE remaining part of the day Mrs. Brown seemed almost in a state of insensibility, except that she opened her lips to receive the diluting liquids very often presented to her. In the course of the night a copious expectoration gave her great relief; and about noon next day, my aunt and I went to see her. Her daughter, Mrs. Ferguson, had come, in consequence of an express sent to inform her of her mother’s indisposition; and Mary, who had accompanied Lady Maria to India, returned with her as the wife of a respectable civilian. The good woman expressed great satisfaction on hearing of Mary’s change of fortune:—“She was a very pretty girl,” said she, “and as good as she was handsome. I hope prosperity has not spoiled her. Much do I rejoice that Lady Maria comes to Scotland so opportunely, to cheer my dear Countess.”

My aunt did not attempt to speak: she knew Mrs. Brown alluded to her own demise;



and she could not, without great emotion, enter upon that subject.

“MRS. VILLARS,” said Mrs. Brown, “will you have the goodness to examine the contents of this packet, while I can see and hear I will be obliged to you to read the title pages and mottoes of the manuscripts you will find there.”

I FIRST drew out of the parcel a thick book, made of post paper, entitled *Memoirs of Paul Ponder, and others*: to shew that truth is the strongest safeguard; honesty the best policy; and the surest means to make servitude and labour easy, is to perform each separate part with exactitude and fidelity. — The motto on the title page was —

Who does the best his circumstance allows,  
Does well, acts nobly — angels could no more.

“I RECOLLECT, Lady S —,” said Mrs. Brown, “that your ladyship said some ac-

count of our first interview ought to introduce this work."

"I AM still of the same opinion," said my aunt: "and I have preserved the notes we took that evening, which I shall give or send to Mrs. Villars."

THE next manuscript was entitled *The Mother and Nurse's Friend*. The motto in the title page—

Britannia! my dear, my native soil!

For whom my warmest wish to Heaven is sent,

Long may thy hardy sons, of rustic toil,

Be blest with health and peace, and sweet content!

And O! may Heaven their simple lives prevent

From luxury's contagion, weak and vile!

Then how'er crowns and coronets be rent,

A virtuous populace may rise the while,

And stand a wall of fire around their much lov'd isle!"

THE first chapter, which laid down rules for preserving the health of infants, was introduced by the following lines :—

Sweet floweret, pledge o' mickle love,  
 And ward o' mony a care!  
 What heart o' stane wad thou na move,  
 Sae helpless, sweet, and fair?

THESE two manuscripts were enveloped by a deed of conveyance, bequeathing all the profits that might accrue from their publication, to the charitable institution already mentioned; and the address Mrs. Brown spoke to the Countess was also there, as a letter intended for me. The manuscript copy of the *Nursery Tales*, and the letters from Mr. and Mrs. Brown to their sons and daughters, were sealed up and directed for them.

MRS. BROWN survived a week, and had the happiness of seeing her daughters, who hired a carriage, and came to receive her last blessing, which was all she had to bestow. Lady

Maria and Mary reached Rose Vale the night before Mrs. Brown's decease. She begged to see Colonel Elphinstone, his children, and Mary's husband. When she looked round upon so many of her dear master and mistress's descendants, and upon her own dutiful offspring, she ejaculated a short but fervent thanksgiving to God, saying, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: glory be to thy blessed name." That evening she sat up to get her bed made. My aunt hardly left her a moment. She was seated near the bed, and I was assisting Mary to raise her grandmother's head, by adding another pillow, as she complained of increased difficulty in respiration, we heard her softly whisper, "In life and in death, Lord, may I be thine!" She spoke no more. Her pious spirit had passed into a blessed eternity. Her memory is embalmed by the unfeigned esteem of a large circle of friends, and by the most tender affection of her family.

WHEN I returned home, I found Frederick

Harris had come with his cousin, Lord F——, to pay some visits in our neighbourhood, and had expressed much disappointment at my absence. I invited him and Lord F—— to spend some days with us, and they both seemed to pass the long evening agreeably: in the library of choice books, which were selected by dear Mr. Villars. I shewed them the manuscripts intrusted to me by Mrs. Brown, and they have engaged to promote the subscription. Frederick, whose sentiments are never rashly uttered, assures me I may hope for the highest sanction our empire can afford. “When it is considered,” said he, “that the charity for which it is intended embraces objects that every worthy mind must desire to promote, I am confident the most exalted personage in the kingdom will honour it with his countenance. It is an institution to relieve the most urgent distresses; and the means by which it is raised are to circulate instruction, that may teach the most effectual method for preserving the lives, the health, and the morality of a class

of people whose welfare is indispensable to the national prosperity. You may therefore rely upon the R\_\_\_\_\_l munificence; and O, highly favoured country! where the humble suggestion of a poor widow receives efficiency from the patriot prince."

I HAVE indeed remarked, that whatever diversity of disposition or genius may be discovered in the illustrious branches of our R\_\_\_\_\_l family, one sentiment of the most exalted and diffusive benevolence unites them. If the nature and necessity of this charity shall be properly represented, I am well assured that Frederick's hope will not be in vain.

BUT, from the bright perspective of success to Mrs. Brown's charitable attempt, I must turn to subjects immediately connected with my duty as Nursery Reformer.

A PASSAGE in the book upon Intellectual Education, when it first met my view, vibrated through every feeling of my heart, with an-

guish inexpressible; and, since I saw Frederick Harris, the impression made by these lines has been poignantly renewed. I shall quote them here, beseeching parents to allow them a serious consideration, in balancing the value of morals against those acquirements that are sometimes more anxiously cultivated than the qualities essential to happiness:—

“ We have seen all the satisfaction derived from talents, acquirements, and accomplishments, utterly overwhelmed by solicitude and suspicions respecting a young person's behaviour when out of sight. On the other hand, we have experienced the blessed effects of pure morals in adorning native gifts and elegant attainments, and in raising the possessor, not only in the estimation of the good and wise, but in the opinion of those who could not define in what the secret charm of unaffected goodness and propriety of demeanour consisted.” •

• HOWEVER hard this theme must bear upon

myself, I shall pursue it, to erect a beacon for warning others to shun the rocks and shoals where my domestic joys were wrecked. I rejoice most sincerely in the conspicuous merits universally attributed to the son of my most valued friend, and in drawing a self-condemning parallel between him and my poor Henry, I can appeal to the Great Searcher of all hearts for my upright intentions. If I envy Lady Harris the blessing of a son so exempt from foibles, I hope the emotion is unmingled with malevolence. I congratulate that exemplary mother upon her success in curbing the earliest indications of evil in her boy; and I bewail my own inadvertence, in having failed to consult her in the tuition of my own. Had I felt the same solicitude for his moral sanity, as was ever preying upon my heart on account of his bodily constitution, we should have escaped many sorrows. Frederick and my son are nearly of the same age; both the only and long-desired heirs of opulence; both uncommonly endowed and adorned in personal and mental gifts and attainments; both, by na-



ture, vivacious, ardent, and impetuous; but Frederick happily acquired self government, by the timely, gentle, salutary restrictions to which, from the first dawn of reason, he was inured by his fond yet prudent parents. This invariable, though mild controul, having commenced in his infancy, became so customary, that its operation inflicted no pain; and with each successive year, increasing benefits resulted from habitual power over his own inclinations. Whilst I, infatuated by misplaced tenderness, and by a selfish reluctance to exact the least compliance that might disconcert the amusing gaiety of my child, gave way to his most reprehensible caprices; and the older he grew, the indulgence of his failings became more destructive to his own happiness, and to the peace of his parents. His immediate gratification engrossed my thoughts: I made no provision for futurity; but Sir James and Lady Harris, with more enlightened affection, insured a larger portion of uniform enjoyment for their well governed pupil in his youth, and his manly virtues are now

a perpetual spring of comfort to them, and of satisfaction and honour to himself. He has all my Henry's animation; but he never forgets the deference due to others, and to his own high character. His glowing imagination, and intense passions, guided and reined in by religious and moral sentiments, have been prevented from deluding him into fatal indiscretions; but my inconsistent, inconsiderate, dear charmer, at one time all we could admire, appeared at another, alas! all we could deplore, the victim of inflated fancy, and of unregulated desires. But I will not despond. Though I gave him every license, his father never omitted to admonish him, and we both endeavoured, by precept, and by example, to teach him the things that related to his immortal interests. Though my folly counteracted these impressions, I hope they are not effaced; and when the ebullition of youthful passion hath subsided, these early lessons will assert their influence. The seeds implanted by pious parents may take root, though they should not flourish for a season,

and I hope to shelter my old age under the protecting shade of my Henry's virtues.

I HAD just written this page, and was considering if partiality had not misled me, when Hilaria, with her son in her arms, and an open letter in her hand, rushed in. "He is well! he is well!" she exclaimed, "and there is a letter for you." A joyful tremor seized me: I could hardly break the seal. My dear Henry has been punctual in writing to us, which confirms the hopes I have lately expressed. He tells me "to be under no concern for the fatigues and privations he undergoes. They are medicine for a mind diseased; and I believe I have learnt more wisdom in a camp, than my heart might have imbibed by many years residence, where no opportunity was afforded for proving the efficacy of her dictates. I see here, that moral and steady characters are the most undaunted in the approach of sanguinary conflict, the most patient and magnanimous under wounds, and in the certain prospect of

speedy dissolution; and my reason tells me, that principles of sufficient potency for sustaining the soul in such circumstances must be of divine origin, and ought to be cherished as the shield and buckler of a soldier."

"Oh!" said I, giving the letter to Hilaria, "our beloved Henry will return to us the counterpart of Frederick Harris, and Sir James will no longer, under various pretexts, estrange his son from us. He employed all possible delicacy; but I penetrated his motive, and I could not blame him!"

"THAT motive will no longer exist," said Hilaria, with a deep blush of tenderness for her husband; "and to your lenity, my dear madam, must all our happiness be ascribed. Had my dearest Henry remained in Britain, unpardoned by you, and we, two giddy creatures, had continued to go about, the dupes of every idle scheme for pleasure, I shudder to think of the probable consequences; but he is, I trust, forming himself to all you can

desire, and you have inspired me with an ambition to be worthy of him, and to make this dear boy a phoenix. I was going to whip him to-day, but Mrs. Collet said you would be offended."

"I WOULD be more than offended; I would be grieved. What could he have done to incur your displeasure to such a height, Hilary?"

"WHY, I took out my watch to look at the hour, and, holding it carelessly in my hand, my young master insisted to have the glittering toy."

"AND thus it is," interrupted I, "that the temper of infants are often spoiled, by displaying to them forbidden objects, and chastising them for desires, the impropriety of which they cannot comprehend. Forgive me for saying you was more in fault than him. Do you remember Lady Harris's letter?"

"Not very distinctly; but I will look at

it this moment."—"I plead guilty," continued Hilaria, returning with the letter, from which she read the following paragraphs:—  
"You have furnished me with numerous inducements to take the pen, my dear Hilaria. The pleasure of complying with your request, of being useful to your dear boy, and contributing a few pages to the Nursery Reformer, are motives quite sufficient, without including my own incessant solicitude for enlightening my own sex, upon the only subject which I pretend to know rather better than the generality of mothers; and for this simple reason, that, since my girlish age, the care and government of infants has been my chief study. If the Nursery Reformer shall obtain half the attention that has been bestowed upon *L'Almanac des Gourmands*, I hope many ladies will find their most valuable domestic blessings enhanced and ensured, by correcting the errors there exposed! I am glad to find the very sensible work upon domestic and culinary affairs so much in vogue; but it is of incomparably higher importance

for family happiness, to grant the sanction of modish *eclat* to a competent knowledge of infantine management. An expert housekeeper may regulate a mansion from the attic story to the kitchen and larder; but no governess, nurse, or nursery maid, can completely supply the benefits to be derived from intelligent maternal superintendence. Experience has convinced me, that to develop the faculties, and to cherish the best propensities of an infant, is an easy and pleasant task; and, if he would be continually under the inspection of judicious parents, his good dispositions would seem to shine out spontaneously. But custom has decreed that great part of every day, and all the night, must be passed by children, in the most impassible stage of their lives, under the auspices of a nurse, whose erroneous indulgence or rigour may counteract the best endeavours of the most attentive mother. She has, therefore, a double charge, and the non-performance of either will frustrate her hopes. She must not only train the baby, she must instruct the nurse, and prevail with

her to give the example of self-command; for, without example, the most diligent monitor will find little success in her rebukes or admonitions. If the nurse shall be good tempered and candid, ingenuous and steady, the child will imitate and imbibe her good qualities; but we are not to expect undeviating perfection. The most wise and worthy nurse may err; therefore her conduct must be assisted by minute inspection. The sweetest babe will be sometimes peevish, wilful, perverse, or violent, if any attention to his comforts has been omitted, if he is indisposed, or even from the weakness and mutability of human nature. But the recurrence of these sallies must be carefully obviated, as habits are made up by successive feelings or actions. But you will ask me—How shall we guard against this recurrence? I answer, by assiduously attending to the child's personal cleanliness and ease. Tight clothing not only injures the health, but it frets the mind. Want of sufficient aliment, or overloading the stomach; deficiency of sleep, or dozing a babe



into forced slumbers; remaining too long in one posture, by forgetting to change him alternately to both arms; too little exercise, or fatiguing rapid motion; and, a very common negligence of nurses, leaning the weight of their arms on their charge, as he sits on their knee, are all frequent causes of unintelligible signs of discontent. The latter inconvenience I have persuaded some of my friends to avoid, by forbidding their infants to be seated at any time on the nurse's knee. She must carry him about very often, for a short time, in her arms, and then lay him on a cushion, where his limbs may have full play, as directed in the book I formerly recommended to your notice. My daughter has improved a little upon that plan, by getting a nice deep-oval cane basket, stuffed on all sides: there the cushion is laid, and the child is in perfect safety; for the bottom of the basket is weighed down by short thick leaden feet. The dear little fellow now attempts to rise, by catching hold of the silk lining and I have advised Harriet to get tassels, by

which he may support himself. The basket is so deep, there is no danger of his falling over, and the sooner he can change his attitudes, the more vigorous he will grow, and, I may add, the better humoured. Weariness in one posture very often unhinges an infant's mind, and the nurse stupidly wonders what can ail him? After all, Hilaria, do not flatter yourself that your utmost care will wholly prevent capricious fancies in your son; but you may check their first impulses, and effectually cure them. I can, on this subject, refer you to the homely volumes already mentioned; and I can assure you, all that is said to enforce patience in the mother, is founded on truth, reason, and experience. I was blest with many daughters, and one son. They never received a blow from me, nor, as far as I know, from any other person; and I dare assert, they were as docile, tractable, and submissive children, as ever blessed a parent. What they are now, in maturity, your mother can inform you. It is never to be forgotten, according to our manual, that the less con-

straint or fear of suffering, we shall impose upon children, if at the same time they are taught to discriminate between right and wrong, and no licence given to improper conduct, the more sincerely good they will prove as they advance in age. Their self denials and performances will be voluntary. The free exercise of their perceptions will preserve them from heedless misrepresentation, which often happens, and is considered as intentional falsehood, in poor young creatures whose parents have failed in cultivating an accuracy in their ideas, or in setting them at ease in their communications.

“ WHAT a large sheet I have filled up with a *preachment*, yet I think I have not employed many superfluous words; and I am well assured you will prefer these plain rules for promoting the welfare of your child, to the effusions of wit and fancy with which a more ingenious correspondent might decorate some electioneering anecdotes for your entertainment. I am now too old to

amuse my friends; but my desire and exertions to serve them can never be superannuated."

MRS. COLLET now came to demand her charge, and to tell us Miss Montague was in the nursery, having finished her letters. As nurse was undressing Augustus, Hilaria said, "how deliberately Mrs. Collet proceeds. The nurse at Sir Williant Harley's would have stripped half a score of little ones since we have been here."

"I was never till now employed in a fine nursery, madam," said Mrs. Collet modestly; "but I served six years with a worthy gentlewoman, who required the utmost gentleness and caution in handling her infants. I once spent an hour at Lord W\_\_\_\_'s, where a nurse was undressing a puny baby, turning and tossing him in a way that I would have thought cruelty to a puppy, or a kitten.— Lady W\_\_\_\_ herself came in to see a sick parrot that had been hung in the nursery for

the benefit of the evening sun. Her ladyship stood a little, trying to quiet the boy by giving him some sweetmeats, but she never found fault that he was handled so roughly. Indeed, I thought his nurse made more and more flourishes after her lady came in."

"SHE wished to show off her own dexterity," said Miss Montague; "but if Lady W—— had known the risk and discomfort attending these expeditious movements, she would have reproved them. Her ladyship is truly compassionate and amiable, and would take much trouble to relieve the meanest of the human race, or even the most contemptible reptile. With a few words she could have put a stop to a most dangerous hardship inflicted upon her own child; but she never had the good fortune to meet with any friend, or friendly book, to apprise her that these rapid movements actually endanger a child's health, and that deliberation and gentleness must be strictly enjoined."

“INDEED,” said I, “it is impossible even to take sufficient care not to let a child slip from one’s hand, in the way expert nurses hurry over their operations, and as for observing that no ligature shall be drawn too tight, it is impossible, without deliberation.”

“THE worst of all is, madam,” said Mrs. Collet, “the dreadful mistakes that may be made, when a nurse is more anxious to appear very clever, than to do justice to the baby. The little innocent, who was born much about the same time with Augustus, lost her life by being plunged into the bath too hot. My lord’s own servant told my husband that the scalding and the fright, though the skin was not broken, threw her into a fever, and she died in four days.”

“I RECOLLECT with horror,” said Hilaria, “an incident at Sir William Harley’s which would not have taken place, if, like you, Mrs. Collet, the nurse had cooled the child’s mess,

by little and little, in a saucer. The nursery was hung round with caricatures, and in bad weather, when the younger guests had exhausted all other recreations, Lady Harley sometimes bid us go and find out resemblances for our acquaintances among the odd faces and figures that covered the walls. I was one summer evening scampering across the floor, carolling a merry song, and not observing how I directed my course, till I thrust my hand into the silver pap boat, out of which nurse was feeding the infant—but, good heavens! how was I shocked to find that she had been cramming him by main force with scalding food—Stop, oh stop! for mercy's sake! nurse, said I, you are burning the child. He had roared incessantly, and nurse had given him several slaps for spitting out mouthfuls of his pap; but when she tasted it, she found he had too great cause for his ill-humour. Next day his mouth and throat were dreadfully inflamed, and he had a long illness, but his parents never knew the cause.”

“MANY infants are ill through carelessness and mismanagement in their attendants,” said Miss Mofatague; “but it is concealed from those who alone could prevent the evil, by their own superintendence. I heard Mrs. P—— with perfect *nonchalance*, lately tell how her husband saved their youngest boy last winter. Mrs. P—— is fond of gaiety whether in town or country. Her youngest child, you know, was quite an infant when they went last winter to London. Mr. P—— had a brother, a medical student, who neither approved of the appearance nor the manners of the nurse, and he frequently suggested to the father the impropriety of her treatment, especially in making the child’s dress too tight. All this was mentioned to Mrs. P——, as she owns herself, laughingly saying, ‘they would have me be a spy in the nursery; but where there are plenty of attendants it does no good. I see the little creature while I am dressing, and regularly after dinner, and if I was to take a further charge upon myself the nurses would become indifferent.’ It is



easy to persuade ourselves of what we wish; and Mrs. P\_\_\_\_\_ concluded this was a very prudent determination. Mr. P\_\_\_\_\_’s profession often keeps him out of bed after his lady has returned from evening parties. This night he heard her carriage stop at the door, just as he finished the first page of a long paper, which must be despatched to one of his clients early next day, and before his task was completed all was quiet in the dressing-room. Mr. P\_\_\_\_\_ lighted his taper, extinguished the candles, and was so sleepy he was almost tempted to go to bed without visiting the nursery; but as Mrs. P\_\_\_\_\_ said, he had philosophy enough, drowsy as he was, to recollect that a good rule, once violated, may be gradually discontinued, in spite of our conviction that it ought to be kept in practice. . So Mr. P\_\_\_\_\_ roused himself and went to the nursery. He found the two elder children in a sweet sleep; but on approaching the bed where the infant lay, the livid hue of his face alarmed him. He took him in his arms, and then perceived nurse was absent. The

child was swaddled firmly to a pillow. As quick as thought he cut all the bandages, and every string in the night-clothes; then with hasty strides reached his brother's room, calling to him as soon as he opened the door, to awake; but deliverance from his bondage, together with the effects of air and motion, had revived the child, who was certainly in fits."

"DID not his mother," said I, "*then* perceive the necessity for attention?"

"FAR from it. She says she cannot believe the child was at all ill—that it was a false alarm; that poor nurse had the tooth-ach, and in her great care fixed the child to the pillow, whilst she went to get some warm water to keep in her mouth. Mr. P—— says she was at a ball, but you know he is not fond of disputing, and he left Mrs. P—— to represent the affair in her own way, whilst he enjoys the secret consciousness of having done his duty."

WHAT an example! What encouragement for fathers to supply the defective cares of a giddy or ignorant wife! But why are not such occurrences made public as a caution to parents? Essays, tracts, and treatises are perpetually issuing from the press, to communicate the peculiarities of every creature that may be made subservient to the use or diversion of human beings; but what comparison can be made between the safety of their own offspring, and the interest of a dissertation on herds, flocks, or farriery; or a sportsman's calendar, or an angler's diary.

“MANY of the irrational errors committed in the treatment of infancy would certainly be prevented,” said Miss Montague, “by the information you speak of, Mrs. Villars. Indeed, when we consider that there is hardly a family or an individual who cannot recite instances of the grossest mismanagement, it seems a standing miracle that so many children escape death and deformity.

“AND yet how dreadful to relate,” said Hilaria, “half of the infants who are born, die before they have learned to bless their Creator. How often do we hear ladies say, they have had many children, and yet perhaps only two or three remain.”

“You have touched an agonizing chord, Hilaria. If eyes could weep blood——”

“My dear madam,” said Hilaria, “why these tears? am I the cause?”

“You are not to blame,” my dear daughter. “You know nothing of my hoard of woe; but it is fit you should. I wish all the world to know it, as a warning to future mothers. Think, oh think! how extreme must be the compunctions of her who has lost five promising infants, and knows she lost them by her own negligence.”

“Be but as candid to yourself as to others, my dear friend,” said Miss Montague, “and

you will cease to embitter your own life by these self accusations. Your own integrity precluded suspicion of baseness or cruelty."

"CAN I palliate to myself?" said I, "the infatuation which led me to believe a nurse would be capable of performing duties a mother was tempted to neglect?—Never, never!—But I ought not to distress my friends with these dismal retrospections. I will, however, for your instruction, Hilaria, enter upon a subject which never has passed my lips, except in broken sentences; but I shall now relate it, as it must shortly appear in the Nursery Reformer."

"Soon after my dear Mr. Villars and I returned from abroad, we paid our devoirs to our uncle in Essex. We found his spacious mansion had many guests, but a suite of rooms had been reserved for us, and having arrived late, we saw few of the company till the first bell for dinner summoned us to the drawing-room. I was prepossessed in favour

of Lady Harris from our first introduction. Though lively, entertaining, and well informed, it was evident she spoke in the simplicity of her heart, not to display her own powers, but to amuse her friends. When the ladies retired from dinner, they crowded round her to beg she might tell them the extraordinary affair at Malden, which she had just spoken of, when the arrival of the post called every one's attention to the newspapers.

“If you will excuse some egotism,” said Lady Harris, “I shall proceed with my story:—A fortnight after the recruiting party quartered at Malden came there, I understood that the officer's wife was a very young creature, who had eloped with him; and now in bad health and low spirits, expected her first confinement; whilst her husband, a mere boy, left her alone, to amuse himself with some acquaintances he had made since his arrival. I pitied Mrs. Dyson so much, that I called upon her. I found she had every appearance

of genteel habits; but in all the concerns of common life, especially in reference to the charge she had in near prospect, a child could have talked with equal intelligence and discernment. Now, young ladies, having such a fair opportunity, I cannot resist the desire. I always feel to warn the fair, that all their acquirements will seem to them but as *dust in the balance*, when put in competition with some knowledge of infantine treatment, if like Mrs. Dyson, they shall be in utter ignorance, and in a strange country. Without eloping with a military or naval officer, marriage may remove you at a great distance from mothers, aunts, or any friend to whom you could apply for information. Mrs. Dyson was the eldest of five, and as she said to me, would give all her accomplishments in exchange for the experience she might have acquired by attending to the manner in which her younger brothers and sisters had been managed; but she might have attended to these necessary particulars without neglecting more elegant.

studies. I visited her very frequently, and finding she intended to perform the actual duties of a nurse, I spoke to her, as I shall now take the liberty to make an oration, young ladies, to you. I am a great advocate for giving infants the nourishment allotted by Providence, and have nursed my own family, six healthy girls; but then I devoted myself to the undertaking. Unless a mother can resolve to bestow as much sustenance as a child desires, by day or by night, at regular periods, not more distant than two hours; and when he is teething, or in any other ailment, he must be permitted to apply to the 'salubrious fount' as often as he pleases.— Unless she can cheerfully and perseveringly undergo this trouble, the babe would be more thriving at the bosom of a conscientious, warm-hearted, good natured, healthy country woman, who would think of nothing so much as of the advantage of her charge. I know ladies who profess to nurse, but the child is not permitted to disturb them in the night, and they pay and receive visits, whilst he suffers



the punishment of Tantalus, tormented by vain expectation of allaying his thirst. He would be better spoon-fed than irritated by being kept in mind of his cordials, and by disappointment; or exhausted by unavailing clamours, and liable to mistakes and inattention in giving him drink, perhaps when a teething fever inflames his humours; and though all this does not immediately prove fatal, it must impair the constitution, and will certainly hurt the temper, which ought to be formed by habitual good humour. All this I said to Mrs. Dyson, and more; but I shall not tire you with a further specimen of my eloquence, but return to my tale. Mrs. Dyson assured me that she was *determined* to be a patient and devoted nurse, and indeed her little girl improved charmingly. When she was scarcely seven weeks old, I was surprised one day when I called, to be informed she had been sent to the country the night before, and that the mother was too ill to see any one. I sent daily to inquire for her, but did not call, as it might seem intrusive.

I believe a fortnight or more had passed, when Mrs. Dyson came to invite Sir James and me to go with a large party to the farm-house where her child was nursing. I never go out in the forenoon but in cases of necessity, as it interferes so much with my plan for the education of my daughters, and Sir James dislikes all promiscuous company.— We declined the invitation. Going soon after, *en famille*, to spend some weeks with Sir James's sister, I saw no more of Mrs. Dyson, who visited a great deal in the town. Soon after our return, I was informed Mrs. Dyson was in the lobby, entreating to see me as quickly as possible, but could not come up stairs. I ran to her. She seemed in great perturbation, and much fatigued; and when she attempted to speak, her emotion overcame her. I brought her to the nearest apartment, and prevailed with her to swallow some wine and water. In a very incoherent manner she told me she had had a race of almost two miles, from the farm-house where her child was placed; that she had just come

from thence, and after waiting four hours, had seen neither her nor the nurse. Dyson, she said, was dining out of town, but that she would send for him, and had come for a search warrant, as she could not rest till she knew what had become of her child. As Mr. Dyson was not to be at home till the evening, I insisted his wife should dine with us, and promised to go immediately after with her; and that under pretence of buying fruit, we could satisfy ourselves without offending the nurse. Sir James said it would be imprudent to betray any suspicion till Mrs. Dyson had some proper person to take the child, and asked her to tell him circumstantially, her grounds for alarm. 'I shall tell you all, Sir James,' said she, 'though I must inflict upon myself the merited penance of exposing my folly; but if it can tend in the least to my poor Julia's advantage, it will be a slight atonement for my thoughtless cruelty to her..

NOTWITHSTANDING Lady Harris's mo-

therly warning,' said Mrs. Dyson, ' I flattered myself that in fostering my baby I should experience a succession of sweet emotion; I did not in the least foresee the drudgery I must encounter, with no assistant but a servant as ignorant as myself. But when I found my pleasures circumscribed by day, and my rest broken by night, I was easily induced to listen to a woman who sold fruit to us, and advised to give my child out to nurse. I am now convinced she had a person in view, though she pretended to have great difficulty in prevailing with the woman she brought. Dyson staid at home a whole day to see her. Though not young, she was comely, and her manners bespoke some intercourse with her superiors. When we had conversed with her and examined her certificates, we could have no hesitation in giving her the child. Yet so mutable were my feelings, that the poor little exile was not half an hour gone, when I would have given a world, if it had been at my disposal, to reclaim her; and I cried myself quite sick. Dyson had before this time

gone out, and early next morning he went upon a shooting or an angling party; so it was next evening before the doctor was called, and I was then in a high fever. I had never adverted to the fluid which ought to have nourished my child, and I suffered severely from the consequences. This will in some measure account for my ignorance of Julia's situation. During my illness Dyson went repeatedly to see her, and always returned in raptures with the rural scene, and with nurse's sagacity and her obliging deportment. The first day I went out, was that when I begged the favour of your company to the cottage. I admired the luxuriant foliage of the woods, the windings of the rivulet, the fields rich with the promise of harvest, the meadows where the milky drove were feeding peacefully; the poultry of various kinds dispersed all around. The garden, where ornament and utility were judiciously united; and the house, which seemed the temple of neatness and order; but all these objects could not so engross my attention, as to disguise from me,

the pallid heavy aspect of my child; but the nurse imputed it to teething, and I took her word for it. I now made a large circle of acquaintances, and formed many parties to the farm; I grew familiarized to Julia's appearance, and flattered myself she would recover the healthy vivacity which delighted my heart, even when I banished her from my arms. To-day, as Dyson was to go to amuse himself with some friends, I took a solitary walk to the farm, but though I waited more than four hours, I could get no satisfactory account of the nurse, nor of my poor girl. I heard some piteous cries, but it was the feeble voice of a very young infant, and my pusillanimous spirit was not equal to the enterprise of following the sounds, though no words can express my anxiety to trace them."

"It was well you did not," said Sir James; "your suspicions may be groundless, and by affronting the nurse you might injure her charge; but it certainly is advisable to go

after dinner to ascertain the cause of her long absence."

" WHEN we stepped out of the coach, we saw a person run hastily to the back door, but as she was muffled up in a cloak, we could not be sure it was the nurse. We hastened to enter by the front door, and to get to a room above stairs, which Mrs. Dyson said was used as a nursery; but before we reached the lowest step, a servant met us, to lead the way to the parlour. " We wish to go to the nursery," said I; for Mrs. Dyson panted for breath, and could not utter a word. I now caught a glimpse of the nurse, who appeared desirous of getting up stairs; but finding she was observed, she came forward, saying, " I have just been bathing missy in the stream." — " Is it not rather late in the season," said I " for bathing so young a child out of doors?" — Mrs. Dyson in the mean time had eagerly caught hold of the infant, but had almost dropped her, when she found no clothing upon her but a roll of coarse flannel, and a cap

of the same material upon her head. She was in a deep sleep, from which her mother's caresses and endearing words, though spoken in a very audible voice, did not rouse her. — 'She is in a lethargic fit, she won't move,' said Mrs. Dyson, with a plentiful shower of tears. I made signs to her to support her feelings, and asked to be shown to the nursery, where Julia might be laid to sleep. Nurse put her hand into her pocket. — 'I have dropped the key, perhaps lost it for ever in the stream,' said she; 'I always lock the nursery when I go out, in case idle people may come while I am away.' We saw it would be to no purpose to attempt farther investigation. On returning to Sir James, he sent for Mr. Dyson, made out a warrant, and ordered a *passé*, headed by a peace officer, to attend at our house at an early hour next morning. Before seven o'clock Mrs. Dyson and I, attended by Mr. Dyson, Sir James, and my housekeeper, were in the coach, which was ordered to stop at a short distance from the cottage. The gentlemen well armed, got in unperceived at the



back door. Mr. Dyson conducted his companion to the nursery. They found the nurse fast asleep, with her son, a fine boy, eight months old, upon her bosom. Upon a coarse pallet laid over a table which stood near the bed, they saw what, at first view, they supposed to be two rolls of coarse woollen; but on a nearer inspection, it proved to be Mr. Dyson's child, and a very young infant. Each of the babes had in its mouth a piece of sponge firmly inserted in a flat bottle containing water gruel, sweetened with molasses, which could not disguise the laudanum mixed with the other ingredients. The gentlemen did not then wait to examine the contents, but they were afterwards analyzed by a physician. Mr. Dyson, with a countenance pale as a wintry cloud, took up his own child and the bottle, which she held fast in her gums. Sir John bore away the other babe and his bottle. This was a dreadful interval for Mrs. Dyson, my housekeeper and I could hardly keep her from fainting; but when she saw her husband, she leaped from the carriage,

and flew to inquire for the child. She caught her in her arms, and never parted from the precious burthen till she carried her home. The other infant was given in charge to my attendant. We now all bent our steps towards the house, and had advanced but a little way, when we heard the nurse's cries reverberating around; and her child, too, terrified by her vociferation, rent the air with his cries. I can give you but a faint idea of the horrors of this morning, and the impression can never be effaced from my mind. When we opened the door of the chamber, the unhappy woman was standing with only one petticoat, her cap torn off and scattered in fragments on the floor, and her neck and face marked with the blows she was inflicting upon herself. As soon as she saw the constable following us, she fell into strong convulsions. We laid her in bed, and endeavoured to restore her by the use of *sal volatile*, and other things I had directed my housekeeper to bring for Mrs. Dyson. She recovered a little, but raising her eyes, again was seized with fright-

ful spasms. We sent one of the men who seemed to know the house, to call her husband and servants to attend her; he returned in a quarter of an hour, informing us that every one belonging to the place had absconded; but that he had gone for two labourers' wives. Some soldiers had now come from the town with necessaries for breakfast, ordered by Mr. Dyson, and we were soon called to the parlour. Indeed it was a deliverance to get out of that room, and we hoped the nurse might be benefited by our absence. Mr. Dyson sent breakfast for her; and for the women who attended her, as also for the men who kept watch on the outside of her chamber door. After we had finished breakfast, the man who was sent for assistance came to say, nurse begged to see us, and he mentioned he was desired to let us know the young infant belonged to an honest tradesman in town, whose wife only lived five days after the birth of her boy, and he would have perished for want, if nurse had not taken him under her care. We returned up stairs. Nurse

was neatly clothed, but there was a wildness in her look which froze my blood. She rose, and with great effrontery, and yet with an air of respect, begged to know, 'why such an uprear had been raised in her house? Her own child was weaned, and though she had accepted the charge of two others, it could be no fault, since many poor women upon scanty fare, and without any good things to give their babies, were known to have nursed healthy and robust twins. She therefore hoped she and her family would suffer no further molestation.'—'It is not for us to award your sentence,' said Sir James; 'conduct such as yours must be rigorously investigated and exposed, as a warning to others, that though infants cannot reveal the injustice they may meet, there is a just Power watching over them that will detect the guilty. Mrs. Dyson takes her child home, and I shall see the boy restored to his father.'—At these words the nurse, with a violent shriek, fell down in convulsions. We sent Dr. Duncombe to exert his skill in her behalf. He called

upon me in the evening to tell us he had left the ill-fated woman expiring—and expiring in the most dreadful agonies of a guilty conscience. She made a full confession to the woman who attended her, and to the constable, and the expressions she used in speaking to the doctor amounted to a declaration of some great crimes. As far as I can, without tiring you by minuteness, I will repeat to you, ladies, the words of my informer. ‘It seems,’ said Dr. Duncombe, ‘that this wretched woman died by her own hand, but without any intention of suicide. She was frequently distressed with a pain in her stomach, for which she was in the habit of taking small quantities of laudanum. When I first saw her, she fixed her eyes upon me with a ghastly stare, which shewed she was drawing near to the period of her days.’—‘Oh, Sir!’ said she, ‘my head has been disordered, and my hand unsteady all the day. I took one dose of laudanum to ease the racking pains in my stomach, and as it did me no good I took another, and then, I believe, another; I don’t

know how many drops I reckoned; but I am sure I went wrong, for I feel strangely, very strangely.—But Doctor!—Oh, Doctor! as you would hope for mercy, when, like me, death and judgment stare you in the face—tell me, and tell me truly, am I in danger?—‘If you have any worldly affairs to settle,’ said I, ‘you should make no delay.’—‘Worldly affairs!—worldly affairs!’ she exclaimed:—‘Oh, world, world! what have I not sacrificed for thee—and now we must part.—What have I,’ she cried out, ‘in exchange for my peace of mind, my soul—but vengeance—vengeance.—Doctor! I adjure you by all that is terrible in death! tell me, and tell me truly, will harsh usage and beatings, and terrors, sometimes the want of regular meals, sometimes undressed, and sleeping on the floor when nurse is out late—with a little wine, or spirits, or sirup of poppies, or laudanum, when nurse wants a good sleep, or to go a merry-making.—Oh, accursed merry-making! but my time is short, and I must speak only of the fearful question!—Will

all these things, if they should not kill immediately, shorten an infant's life?—And, oh! oh! oh! dreadful words! can it be called murder! when they die of lingering sickness?' I replied—'that terrors and torture alone were sufficient causes for shortening the life of an infant; but when to these barbarous acts were added the inflammatory effects of vinous and spiritous liquors, and the stupifying influence of laudanum, a child's constitution must be unable to sustain the attacks of teething, and other puerile diseases.'—'But,' said she, 'some parents are as cruel to their own babies, and they give them wine and spirits, and many such things.'—'And hence,' said I, 'proceed the numerous deaths in infancy and childhood.'—'Then—then—then,' cried out the miserable dying person, half raising herself up in bed, and then dashing her head upon the pillow.—'I am guilty—guilty—undone. Oh, my babies! my pretty babies! this is your hour of vengeance. I die by the same, the very same

means; by the same accursed hands that cut short your thread of life! Oh, I had too much liberty, too much—too much left to myself!—Oh, vengeance!—Oh, Mrs. Villars! your five murdered babies!—Oh, vengeance!”

EVERY one was so engaged in listening to Lady Harris, that I have reason to think that they did not at first observe that I had sunk senseless upon the sofa, where I was sitting.

WHEN I recovered from the swoon, I found Lady Harris by my bed-side, and having told her the direful cause of my excessive sympathy in the events she had described, she was greatly affected. With the prudence which strongly marks all her conduct, she counselled me not to impart to Mr. Villars the cause of my illness. It was several days before I could compose myself to appear in the public room; and never, never shall I



cease to bemoan my own negligence. Had I discharged my duty, my dear babes would have been saved from sufferings which I am almost distracted in conjecturing, and their wretched oppressor would, perhaps, have been withheld from guilt. Mrs. Brown has inserted this sad story more at large in *The Mother and Nurse's Friend*, and thinks no careless or cruel nurse can read it without advantage to her charges. Lady Harris, at my aunt's request, sent for the women who attended the dying person, and gave their recital *verbatim*, with every particular she could recollect. May it preserve others from the anguish which no length of time can soften to my remembrance!

"How many bitter tears have I cost you, my dearest madam," said Hilaria. "When I try to sum up all you have suffered through me, I think the devotion of my whole life a poor consolation. You related that story which has so tortured your feelings on my

account, and owing to my inadvertent expressions; I shall be very unhappy if you continue thus to afflict yourself."

"THE unfortunate may be consoled, Hilary," said I, "the guilty never."

"SAY not so, my friend," said Miss Montague.—"Had your guilt been of a dye as black as that of the wretched nurse, still there is repentance and pardon from the gracious God, who willet not the death of a sinner. You had no criminal intentions, and you are making all possible atonement by such public acknowledgment of your errors, to guard others from their fatal consequences. I must see you more cheerful before we part for the night."

"WILL you allow me to tell Mrs. Villars the happy deed that gilds my humble name—saving the amiable O'Niel's life? I think it is not unworthy of a place in the *Nursery*

*Reformer.* It will shew that an old maid is not quite a useless animal. At that period I was, in my own opinion, a sober spinster, I had quietly ranked myself in that sisterhood, though some of my contemporaries still designated themselves *young ladies*. . I was the only female in a little bark, for North Wales, where my sister resided. The weather proving very boisterous, we were driven to the Irish coast, and as the mariners cast anchor in a small creek, I prevailed with them to set me ashore for the night, for I was exhausted by sea-sickness and drenched with rain. Many of the natives came to the beach when they saw us drawing near; I had the mortification to find that there was no inn nearer than two miles; too great a distance for me to walk, who could hardly stand. A neat looking woman, who overheard my inquiry, courteously entreated I would accept such accommodation as she could afford, and I very thankfully became her guest. She made some very comfortable tea for me; but before I had

Taken the second cup, a footman came in to give Mr. and Mrs. O'Niel's compliments, and as it still rained hard, they had sent the carriage for the stranger lady. My hostess, Mrs. Daly, had told me her husband was chief gardener to Mr. O'Niel, and had spoken largely in praise of him and his lady. She now said that though she would be proud to entertain such a guest, she was sure I should be charmed with the great family. A few minutes brought me there, and I was ushered into a parlour. An elderly lady met me at the door, apologizing for her brother's inability to rise; when he received me, he was seated in an arm chair, and supported by cushions. He held out his hand with a frankness and cordiality which made me forget I had no claim to his kindness; and indeed I have since found that this conciliating ease, remarkably distinguishes Hibernian hospitality. 'We are in some confusion,' said Mr. O'Niel; 'but we shall do our very best to pay you attention, Madam. My wife has been ill all this afternoon, and

as all our offspring (two boys) have been still-born, the dread of the same misfortune at this time, makes her miserable, and I have great fears for her own safety. To heighten our perplexity, the physician who formerly attended this family, died last week of a putrid fever, and my dear Ellen will not hear of calling any other medical assistance.— I felt the most painful reluctance to interfere, yet it would have been ingratitude, perhaps even homicide, to conceal from my liberal host, that my brother had been the happy instrument of recalling to life several infants of both sexes, by the use of means that every cottager may procure, and every woman of common sense may apply.— ‘Sir,’ said I, ‘either permit me to return to your gardener’s house, or treat me without ceremony. I am sister to a successful practitioner of the healing art, and have had considerable experience as a sick nurse. If I can be in the least useful, to command my willing services would make me forget I am a stranger, as the hope of

contributing to Mrs. O'Niel's ease has already dissipated from me all sense of fatigue.' I then described to him the simple process employed for restoring animation to infants apparently still born.—'Ah! madam,' said the old gentleman, 'heaven has sent you to speak peace to our troubled spirits. Indeed I am more unhappy than manhood should express; but when you see my lovely Ellen, you will make great allowances for me. I shall go to her directly, and tell her what an envoy of comfort the Almighty hath vouchsafed to send us.' Miss O'Niel conducted me to the drawing-room, where tea and coffee had been prepared; and two stout footmen bore their master in his chair to the lady's apartment. In less than half an hour a female servant came to deliver Mrs. O'Niel's respects, begging to see me. I found her, indeed, a very beautiful young woman, and she still retains the fascination of an uncommon mixture of sweetness, delicacy, and playful vivacity. Mr. O'Niel had left the room, and the

crisis of Mrs. O'Niel's fate, was momentarily expected. At my request, Miss O'Niel had ordered a kettle with hot water, a tub, two pieces of flannel large enough to cover the body and limbs of an infant, and a soft linen cloth. In a small phial I mixed two teaspoonfuls of the oil of almonds with ten drops of the spirits of hartshorn, and working it up closely, I shook it, and gave it in charge to one of the attendants, with injunctions to have it at hand when called for. The child was born without any signs of life. As speedily as possible I poured the hot water over one piece of flannel, wrung it hard, held it a little to my cheek to ascertain that it was not too warm, and then wrapped it round the body and limbs of the babe, leaving the head uncovered, and desiring a cap might be in readiness. I laid him upon my lap, his face downwards, supporting his forehead a little with one hand, to allow a free passage for the air to act upon his mouth and nostrils. With the other hand, I gradually anointed the crown and

back part of his head with the volatile essence already described. In a short time a quantity of frothy defluxion issued from his mouth, and he uttered repeated cries. I patted him gently on the back, to soothe him, and to promote the discharge, and when it ceased I dipped him over head three or four times in tepid water, wrapped him in a soft linen cloth, covered him with the piece of dry flannel, put on his cap, tied loosely, and laid him for rest. He still lives an ornament to his country. I ought to add, that I was loaded with presents of great value, not only by Mr. and Mrs. O'Niel, but from the numerous friends of the family. The worthy old gentleman died within the year. He settled an annuity on me, which his son has bountifully augmented, in consequence of the increased expense of living, and of my now being the only protectress and support of my brother's orphan family. This may shew how much an old maid may benefit herself by good offices to infancy."



I WILL now conclude my humble production by a few observations, which I earnestly entreat may be pondered attentively.

THE power of affording useful information of performing services, can never fail to re-act in blessings to the possessor, whether in celibacy, or in a conjugal state; and opportunities for attaining that capacity, is in all situations accessible, through a beneficent attention to the children of the poor. A lady, accompanied by her daughters, in these visits of charity, may impart to them a practical knowledge of infantine management that may eventually prove their most valuable acquisition.

I HAVE now with all deference, laid before the reader my whole stock of information or ideas, in respect to nursery affairs, except the very interesting particulars to be furnished by Mr. and Mrs. Brown's communications; where they are represented and enforced with

the energy conferred by a series of practical acquaintance with the subjects under discussion; but if at a future period further intelligence shall be obtained, or points of importance elucidated, the public may rely upon the renewed services of their faithfully devoted friend,

THE NURSERY REFORMER.

THE END.